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Horse-trading Iran hawks seize on Pompeo's Senate interest

By MATTHEW LEE
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — In recent days, Iran hawks in Congress leveraged Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's interest in a Senate run to win a key concession from the Trump administration that could help their bid to kill the nuclear deal with Tehran. Late last week, the State Department agreed to release a portion of an internal legal opinion that says the U.S. has the right to demand that all U.N. sanctions on Iran be reinstated, despite President Donald Trump pulling the U.S. out of the nuclear deal. In exchange, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, lifted his hold on the nomination for Stephen Biegun to serve as the State Department's No. 2 official, according to an administration official and a congressional aide.

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Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks during a media availability at the State Department, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press



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U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun, center, arrives at Incheon International Airport in Incheon, South Korea, Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

Continued from Front

Cruz's hold on Biegun not only put his nomination in jeopardy, but it also risked upending a relatively seamless transition at the State Department if Pompeo soon steps down to run for Senate in Kansas.

Without Biegun in place, the top job at State would have likely gone on an interim basis to a David Hale, a career official who testified in the impeachment inquiry into Trump. The behind-the-scenes drama raises new questions about Pompeo's future as

Horse-trading Iran hawks seize on Pompeo's Senate interest

the nation's top diplomat. A former congressman and Trump's CIA director, Pompeo has been weighing a Senate campaign in his home state for months, though officials say no final decision has been made. The matter also highlights the extent to which some Republicans in Washington are still pushing to dismantle remaining elements of the Iran nuclear accord more than a year after the U.S. withdrew. The State Department legal opinion will be used by Cruz and others in the coming weeks to argue that Washington can still force the reimposition of U.N. sanctions set to expire next year. Cruz placed the hold on

the nomination for Biegun, currently the U.S. special representative for North Korea, pending the release of the Iran opinion. Cruz is an ally of the White House and one of the most hawkish lawmakers in Congress on Iran.

The hold would have scrambled the pecking order at the State Department should Pompeo depart for a Senate campaign.

The current deputy secretary of state, John Sullivan, was confirmed on Thursday to be the next U.S. ambassador to Russia. The third-ranking official is Hale, the most senior department official to testify in the impeachment investigation. He shed light on the decision to oust Marie Yovanovitch from her posting as the ambassador to Ukraine, as well as on the department's decision to not defend her.

After considering the possibility that Hale would become acting secretary of state with Sullivan off to Moscow and Biegun's nomination on hold, the department relented and released the Iran memo, according to the administration official and congressional aide.

The administration official and congressional aide were not authorized to public discuss the matter and spoke on condition of

anonymity. The Iran opinion will be used by Cruz and other Iran deal opponents to argue that the U.S. should invoke a "snapback" mechanism for U.N. sanctions that is allowed under the Security Council resolution that enshrined the 2015 agreement known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, known as JCPOA. Snapback would mean the reimposition of all U.N. sanctions against Iran, including an arms embargo and travel bans on specific Iranian officials that are due to expire in October 2020.

Under Security Council Resolution 2231, any "participant state" in the agreement may invoke the snapback if Iran is found to be in "significant non-performance" with the agreement. Although Trump withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear deal last year, the resolution names the participants as those countries that originally negotiated it: Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia, the United States and the European Union, along with Iran.

Deal supporters have argued that Trump's withdrawal means the U.S. is no longer a participant and is thus ineligible to invoke the snapback mechanism. Critics of the accord maintain the language of the Security Council resolution would allow it. □

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Feds seize almost 370 pounds of cocaine headed to Canada

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Federal agents seized almost 370 pounds (166.6 kilos) of cocaine that was hidden in a truck preparing to enter Canada at Vermont's Derby Line border crossing, a court documents say. The cocaine, packed in 142 brick-shaped packages, was found by agents of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in the early morning hours of Dec. 7 with the help of a drug-sniffing dog in a hidden compartment, said an affidavit filed in the case.

The compartment had been discovered empty by agents when entering the United States from Canada two days earlier at the Alexandria Bay, New York, port of entry, the court document said. The driver of the Quebec-registered truck and trailer, Jason Nelson, was charged in federal court in Plattsburgh, New York, with possession with intent to distribute cocaine. His age and nationality were not listed in court documents. Nelson is being held pending a hearing next week His

lawyer did not immediately return a call and email Saturday seeking comment. The truck was first searched in Alexandria Bay when a drug inspection dog detected residual odors of narcotics. Officers then discovered an empty, custom-made compartment in the front of the truck, the document said. Nelson told officers he was headed to Tremont, Pennsylvania. The truck was carrying furniture. Just before 1:30 a.m. on Dec. 7 Nelson and his truck arrived at the Derby Line





In this May 8, 2019 photo, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials stand at the new border crossing facility on the U.S.-Canadian border in Derby Line, Vt.

Associated Press

Port of Entry as it was preparing to enter Canada. Nelson told agents the truck was empty. □

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Democrats seek Bolton, Mulvaney for impeachment trial

By **LISA MASCARO** and **JONATHAN LEMIRE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats are proposing a weekslong Senate impeachment trial seeking testimony from four new witnesses including John Bolton and Mick Mulvaney over President Donald Trump's actions toward Ukraine, according to a detailed outline released Sunday.

Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York proposed the structure for a "fair and honest" trial in a letter to Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, an attempt to launch negotiations ahead of House voting this week that is all but certain to result in the president being impeached.

Trump faces two charges — abuse of power and obstruction of Congress — over his efforts to pressure Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden while withholding military aid to the ally. The president faces likely impeachment in the House, where Democrats have control, but he



In this Monday, Dec. 9, 2019, file photo, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington.

is expected to be acquitted in a trial in the Senate, where Republicans have the majority. McConnell has signaled his preference for a speedy trial.

"This trial must be one that is fair, that considers all of the relevant facts, and that exercises the Senate's 'sole Power of Impeachment'

under the Constitution with integrity and dignity," Schumer wrote. "The trial must be one that not only hears all of the evidence and adjudicates the case fairly; it must also pass the fairness test with the American people."

Trump has expressed interest in a robust trial that

would not only clear him of the charges in the Senate but also vindicate him, but his desire for a lengthy proceeding is something Senate Republicans are hoping to avoid.

A spokesman for McConnell said Sunday the two leaders are expected to meet.

"Leader McConnell has made it clear he plans to meet with Leader Schumer to discuss the contours of a trial soon," McConnell spokesman Doug Andres said. "That timeline has not changed."

Schumer and McConnell are expected to discuss the contours of a Senate trial, much as the Democrats and Republicans did during Bill Clinton's impeachment two decades ago.

In the letter, Schumer proposes a detailed structure and timeline for a trial to begin Jan. 7, with the swearing in of Chief Justice John Roberts to oversee the proceedings and stretch for several weeks as Democrats subpoena witnesses and testimony, specifically around Trump's decision to withhold military aid from Ukraine. A day of what Schumer calls "pretrial housekeeping measures" would take place Jan. 6.

Democrats want to hear from Bolton, who was Trump's national security adviser at the time and la-

beled the alternative foreign policy being run by Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani and others as a "drug deal" he wanted no part of. He left the White House in September.

They also want testimony from Mulvaney, the acting chief of staff at the White House, who has acknowledged the military aid to Ukraine was being held up, as well as two other White House officials: Robert Blair, a top Mulvaney aide, and Michael Duffey, a budget official who was tasked with handling the Ukraine issue.

Schumer additionally sets out a specific schedule that would allow for 24 hours of opening arguments by the House Democrats' impeachment managers and then 24 hours for the White House lawyers to present their arguments, followed by days of witness testimony. He also sets time for questioning of House managers and Trump's counsel by senators; final arguments by House managers and Trump's counsel; and as many as 24 hours for deliberations by senators. All told Schumer suggests 126 hours of proceedings.

McConnell has indicated in recent days his preference for a swift trial without calling witnesses in what Republicans fear could become a spectacle. At the same time, the GOP leader has said he's taking his "cues" from the White House and will conduct the proceedings as Trump wants them.

One top Trump ally, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, said Sunday he too prefers a quick end to impeachment proceedings.

"I'd tell the president, if somebody is ready to acquit you, I'd sort of get out of the way," Graham said. He warned that calling witnesses could mean that Trump administration officials such as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, blocked by the White House previously from appearing before investigators, could be forced to testify. □

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Shooting shows New Jersey's gun laws aren't stopping imports

By MIKE CATALINI
Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Officials from states with strong gun restrictions have called for stricter firearm control in places with weaker laws to thwart traffickers, but the fatal attack on a Jewish market in New Jersey shows how fruitless those efforts can be.

Three civilians and a police officer were gunned down Tuesday by two killers with anti-Semitic and anti-law enforcement beliefs, the state's attorney general said.

The attackers carried five firearms and a pipe bomb in the U-Haul van they drove to the Jersey City Jewish market before opening fire, officials said. Two of the weapons used by David Anderson, 47, and Francine Graham, 50, were bought by Graham in Ohio last year, police said. It's unknown where they got the three other guns.

New Jersey is among the states with the toughest gun restrictions in the country, and in the past two years, Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy has signed over a half-dozen new restrictions into law, including a lower bullet limit for gun magazines and a red flag law.

He's also made a priority of highlighting the so-called iron pipeline of firearms from other states — particularly along the Interstate 95 corridor. Murphy, for example, is requiring state police to publish data monthly on guns recovered from crimes. The data shows nearly 80% of so-called crime guns are from out of state.

Murphy says it's important to "name and shame" states with weaker gun laws that effectively import weapons into New Jersey. And in California, its Democratic governor and attorney general this year both criticized the continued ability to bring in illegal firearms from other states despite California's strict gun laws.

For years, Chicago officials have complained that street violence often comes

from the muzzles of guns sold in states with less-stringent laws.

Officials there and elsewhere have renewed demands for gun control at the federal level.

"It keeps happening, over and over and over again, on their damn watch," California Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom said of fed-

eral politicians. "I can't put borders up in a neighboring state where you can buy this damn stuff legally."

Federal legislation is the missing factor, agreed Murphy's top gun adviser.

"If we're being honest, New Jersey is not an oasis and that's why it's extraordinarily frustrating," said Bill Castner. □



In this Dec. 10, 2019 photo, Jersey City police Sgt. Marjorie Jordan, right, helps fellow officer Raymond Sanchez to safety after he was shot during a gunfight that left multiple dead in Jersey City, N.J.

Associated Press

Mistletoe Menu

Amuse Bouche & Sparkling Bubbles

Appetizer

Traditional Aruban Christmas Ayaka
Traditional Aruban holiday dish made of banana leaves stuffed with corn meal, pulled chicken, olives, plum, raisins, silver onion and cashew
or
Oxtail Broth
Served with oxtail ravioli, tomato concasse and green onions
or
Beef Carpaccio
Thinly sliced filet Mignon with arugula, pesto and parmesan shavings
or
Tuna Tataki
Thin slice seared and peppered tuna loin, with ginger sesame soy glaze, served with crispy garden greens, red onions and spicy peanuts

Main Course

Triple Christmas Platter
Petit filet mignon, glazed turkey breast and slices of smoked ham, served with apple-bacon stuffing, red cabbage, skin on mashed potatoes and rosemary gravy sauce
or
Steak Oscar Deluxe
A different kind of Surf & Turf, 5 oz filet Mignon covered with a ragout of shrimp and crab, served with grilled asparagus, skin on mashed potatoes and sauce béarnaise
or
Creamy Lobster and Shrimp Risotto
Chunks of lobster and shrimp in a al dente arborio risotto rice served with cherry tomato confit and basil oil
or
Honey Glazed Duck Breast
Pan seared honey glazed crispy skin on duck breast, served with creamy potato au gratin, red wine pear, green asparagus, cherry tomato confit and red wine reduction

Dessert

Warm Pecan Pie
Served with hazelnut ice cream
or
Passion Fruit Mousse
A delicate dessert with an unforgettable flavor of passion fruit, served with berries, tropical fruit salsa and white chocolate chips
or
Bombe Alaska with Cointreau
Vanilla, chocolate and strawberry ice cream, caramelized nuts covered with meringue, fresh berries and Cointreau
or
Warm Cinnamon Apple Strudel
Served with vanilla ice cream and dusted with powder sugar

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Reparations mark new front for U.S. colleges tied to slavery

By **CAROLYN THOMPSON**
Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — The promise of reparations to atone for historical ties to slavery has opened new territory in a reckoning at U.S. colleges, which until now have responded with monuments, building name changes and public apologies.

Georgetown University and two theological seminaries have announced funding commitments to benefit descendants of the enslaved people who were sold or toiled to benefit the institutions.

While no other schools have gone so far, the advantages that institutions received from the slavery economy are receiving new attention as Democratic presidential candidates talk about tax credits and other subsidies that nudge the idea of reparations toward the mainstream.

The country has been discussing reparations in one way or another since slavery officially ended in 1865. This year marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first slave, launching the violence afflicted on black people to prop up the Southern economy.

University of Buffalo senior Jeffrey Clinton said he thinks campuses should acknowledge historical ties to slavery but that the federal government should take the lead on an issue that reaches well beyond higher education.

"It doesn't have to be trillions of dollars ... but at least address the inequities and attack the racial wealth gap between African Americans and white Americans and really ev-



In this Sept. 1, 2016 file photo, a Jesuit statue is seen in front of Freedom Hall, formerly named Mulledy Hall, on the Georgetown University campus in Washington.

Associated Press

erybody else, because this is an American-made institution. We didn't immigrate here," said Clinton, a descendant of slaves who lives in Bay Shore, New York. A majority of Georgetown undergraduates voted in April for a nonbinding referendum to pay a \$27.20-per-semester "Reconciliation Contribution" toward projects in underprivileged communities that are home to some descendants of 272 slaves who were sold in 1838 to help pay off the school's debts. Georgetown President John DeGioia responded in October with plans instead for a university-led initiative, with the goal of raising about \$400,000 from donors, rather than students, to support projects like health clinics and schools in those same communities.

Elsewhere, discussions of reparations have been raised by individual profes-

sors, like at the University of Alabama, or by graduate students and community members, like at the University of Chicago.

At least 56 universities have joined a University of Virginia-led consortium, Universities Studying Slavery, to explore their ties to slavery and share research and strategies.

In recent years, some schools, like Yale University, have removed the names of slavery supporters from buildings. New monuments have gone up elsewhere, including Brown University's Slavery Memorial sculpture — a partially buried ball and chain — and the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers under construction at the University of Virginia.

"It's a very diffused kind of set of things happening around the nation," said Guy Emerson Mount, an associate professor of African American history at

Auburn University. "It's really important to pay attention to what each of these are doing" because they could offer learning opportunities and inform national discussions on reparations.

Virginia Theological Seminary in September announced a \$1.7 million endowment fund in recognition of slaves who worked there. It said annual allocations would go toward supporting African American clergy in the Episcopal church and programs that promote justice and inclusion. The Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey followed with a \$27.6 million endowment after a historical audit revealed that some founders used slave labor.

In an October letter to Harvard University's president, Antigua and Barbuda's prime minister noted the developments at Georgetown and the seminaries

and asked the Ivy League school to consider how it could make amends for the oppression of Antigua slaves by a plantation owner whose gift endowed a law professorship in 1815. Harvard's president wrote back that the school is determined to further explore its historical ties to slavery.

Harvard in 2016 removed a slave owner's family crest from the law school seal and dedicated a plaque to four slaves who lived and worked on campus.

At the University of Buffalo, some have urged the public school to consider the responsibility it bears having been founded by the 13th U.S. president, Millard Fillmore, who signed the Fugitive Slave Act to help slave owners reclaim runaways. Students have not formally raised the idea of reparations, according to a school spokesman, but they led a discussion on the topic as part of Black Solidarity Week last month.

William Darity, a Duke University public policy professor and an expert on reparations, said the voices of college students have helped bring attention to reparations in a way that hasn't been seen since Reconstruction.

Supporting a reparations program for all black descendants of American slaves "would be the more courageous act," he said.

Few Americans support reparations, according to a recent Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll. It showed that only 29% say the government should pay cash reparations to descendants of enslaved black people. □

Two Georgia teenagers arrested in weekend mall shooting

ATLANTA (AP) — Two teenagers were arrested in connection with a shooting that wounded one man in a busy suburban Atlanta mall food court at the height of Christmas shopping season, police said Sunday.

The Cobb County Police Department said surveillance footage and interviews helped identify the suspects as 18-year-old Zaire Dhanoolal and 19-year-old Joweer Ponce, both from Marietta. Dhanoolal was charged with two counts of aggravated assault, while Ponce was charged with reckless conduct and carrying a concealed weapon without a permit, according to the law enforcement statement.

Both suspects were being held at the Cobb County Adult Detention Center, and county police said they were still investigating the mall shooting.

The shooting happened Saturday around 1 p.m. and sent shoppers scrambling at the sound of gunfire that police said began with a verbal dispute.

Officials said 18-year-old Ethan Green was shot in the neck and shoulder area and was taken to the hospital for treatment of what they described as "non-life threatening injuries." The Cobb County Police Department said 21-year-old Anthony Ezell wasn't injured during the shooting, but was considered a victim of aggravated assault because a weapon was pointed at him before Green was shot.

It wasn't immediately clear if either Dhanoolal or Ponce had a lawyer.

Videos posted online showed people with shopping bags running in all directions from the food court after the shooting, with some hiding under counters and tables. Shop-



Bystanders wait outside as authorities investigate an incident at Cumberland Mall in Smyrna, Ga., on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

pers reported that store employees in some cases told them to hide in stockrooms. Police, upon arriving, evacuated people who were found hiding. Police said in statements that the shooting was "an isolated incident," calling it a dispute between people who knew each other. The mall was closed for a time

Saturday afternoon following the shooting, but later reopened.

Cumberland Mall, in suburban Cobb County, has more than 1 million square feet (92,000 square meters) of retail space. It's in a busy suburban business district, near where major league baseball's Atlanta Braves play in their new stadium. □

Canadian couple gets \$9 million jury verdict in bike wreck

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A jury has awarded more than \$9 million in damages to a man and woman from Vancouver, British Columbia, who were struck by an 18-wheeler truck while riding their bikes along Interstate 84 in the Columbia River Gorge in Oregon. The eight-member jury found Exel Inc. — more commonly known as the shipping company DHL — liable for the Aug. 3, 2016, collision late Friday after a five-day trial in U.S. District Court in Portland.

It awarded \$1.3 million in economic damages, \$4 million in non-economic damages and \$4 million in punitive damages to Eric Moutal, whose lower left leg was nearly amputated, and \$400,000 in non-economic damages to his now wife, Andrea Newman, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

Moutal, who was 31 at the time, and Newman, then 25, were vacationing in Oregon, camping and biking in the Columbia River Gorge before a planned visit to Portland.

The two had been biking along the Historic Columbia River Highway but rode a stretch along the interstate in order to return to their campground.

Under Oregon law, it's legal to bike on the shoulder of most freeways, except for a handful of urban freeways where the Oregon Department of Transportation has expressly prohibited it in Portland and Medford. □

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Disappointment as marathon climate talks end with slim deal

By **FRANK JORDANS**
ARITZ PARRA

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Marathon U.N. climate talks ended Sunday with a slim compromise that sparked widespread disappointment, after major polluters resisted calls for ramping up efforts to keep global warming at bay and negotiators postponed debate about rules for international carbon markets for another year. Organizers kept delegates from almost 200 nations in Madrid far beyond Friday's scheduled close of the two-week talks. In the end, negotiators endorsed a general call for greater efforts to tackle climate change and several measures to help poor countries respond and adapt to its impacts.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said he was "disappointed" by the meeting's outcome. "The international community lost an important opportunity to show increased ambition on mitigation, adaptation and finance to



In this Nov. 28, 2019 file photo, smoke and steam rise from a coal processing plant that produces carbon black, an ingredient in steel manufacturing, in Hejin in central China's Shanxi Province.

Associated Press

tackle the climate crisis," he said. "We must not give up and I will not give up." The final declaration cited an "urgent need" to cut planet-heating greenhouse gases in line with the goals of the landmark 2015 Paris climate change accord. But it fell far short of

explicitly demanding that countries submit bolder emissions proposals next year, which developing countries and environmentalists had demanded. The Paris accord established a common goal of keeping temperature increases below 2 degrees

Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), ideally 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century. So far, the world is on course for a 3- to 4-degree Celsius rise, with potentially dramatic consequences for many countries, including rising sea levels and fiercer

storms. After two nights of fractious negotiations, delegates in Madrid decided to defer some of the thorniest issues to the next U.N. climate summit in Glasgow in November.

Chile's Environment Minister Carolina Schmidt, who chaired the meeting, said she was "sad" no deal had been reached on the rules for international trading in carbon emissions permits. "We were on the verge," she said, adding that the goal was to establish markets that are "robust and environmentally sustainable." Economists say putting a price on carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, and allowing countries or companies to trade emissions permits, will encourage the shift to away from fossil fuels toward renewable energy. Some observers welcomed the failure of a deal on carbon markets, though, and the European Union and developing countries had said beforehand that no deal was better than a bad one. □

UK Labour leader Corbyn: I'm sorry for election defeat

By **MIKE CORDER**
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn apologized Sunday for this party's crushing defeat in the British general election but defended his campaign, which failed to resonate with the party's working-class base, as "one of hope rather than fear." British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party won 365 of the 650 seats in the House of Commons in Thursday's landslide election. Labour took 203 seats, its worst



In this Thursday, March 21, 2019 file photo British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, right, and Keir Starmer, Labour Shadow Brexit secretary, leave EU headquarters prior to an EU summit in Brussels.

Associated Press

total since 1935.

"I'm sorry that we came

up short and I take my responsibility for it," Corbyn wrote in a letter published in the left-leaning Sunday Mirror newspaper.

Corbyn, who has faced fierce criticism from within his own party in the aftermath of the electoral carnage, has said he will step down as Labour leader after a "period of reflection."

The process of choosing a replacement will begin early next year, but some have called for Corbyn's immediate resignation.

"I remain proud of the campaign we fought. I'm

proud that no matter how low our opponents went, we refused to join them in the gutter," Corbyn wrote. "And I'm proud that our message was one of hope, rather than fear."

Corbyn's policies failed to energize voters weary of more than three years of political wrangling over Britain's divorce from the European Union.

Johnson's campaign, meanwhile, revolved around three words: His pledge to "get Brexit done."

Britain is scheduled to leave the EU on Jan. 31. □

Egypt's el-Sissi says militias hold Libyan gov't 'hostage'

By SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Libya's U.N.-supported government is held hostage by "armed and terrorist militias" in the capital, Tripoli, Egypt's leader said Sunday.

President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi said in televised comments that the Government of National Accord "is not able to have a free and real will because they have been taken hostage by armed and terrorist militias there."

The GNA is backed by Egypt's regional rivals Turkey and Qatar.

Egypt's relations with the two countries have been strained since 2013 when el-Sissi, as defense minister, led the military to overthrow an elected but divisive President Muhammad Morsi in 2013, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, amid mass protests against his brief rule.

The Tripoli-based government is supported by a Libyan affiliate of the Muslim Brotherhood group, which Cairo designated as a terrorist organization in 2013. The political party of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, too.

El-Sissi said his country has been "negatively affected" by the conflict in Libya, which descended into chaos after the 2011 civil war that ousted and killed long-time dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

Last week, the Egyptian president said a comprehensive political solution would be achieved in the coming months that would put an end to a "terrorist hotbed that pushes militants and weapons to (Libya's) neighboring countries including Egypt."

In the chaos that followed Gadhafi's death, Libya was divided into two parts, a weak U.N.-supported administration in Tripoli and a rival government in the east aligned with the self-styled Libyan National Army, led by Gen. Khalifa Hifter.

Hifter, who has modeled himself after el-Sissi, has for months been fighting an array of militias allied with the



In this Sept. 24, 2019 file photo, Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi addresses the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Associated Press

Foreign Ministry went unanswered.

The Libyan commander Thursday declared a "final" and decisive battle for Tripoli, unleashing heavy clashes on the southern reaches of the city in the past two days against the Tripoli-based militias.

El-Sissi's comments came amid heightened tensions with Turkey after a controversial maritime border agreement it signed last month with Libya's U.N.-based government.

Greece, Egypt and Cyprus, which lie between the two geographically, have denounced the deal as being contrary to international law, and Greece expelled the Libyan ambassador last week over the issue. □

Tripoli authorities to wrest control of the capital. He is backed by the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, as well as France and Russia, while the Tripoli-based government receives aid from Turkey, Qatar and Italy.

On Saturday, Egypt's parliament Speaker Ali Abdel-Al said Egypt recognizes the Libyan legislature as "the sole legitimate body representing the Libyan people," according to the MENA news agency. He said the Egyptian parliament backs Hifter's forces in their "fighting against terrorism."

Libya's parliament is affiliated with the government based in the country's east and has opposed the U.N.-supported government in Tripoli.

Abdel-Al did not say whether the government of el-Sissi decided to rescind its recognition of the Tripoli-based government. Multiple calls to the country's presidency and For-



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Thousands protest against crackdown in Lebanon

HUSSEIN MALLA
DALAL MAWAD
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Thousands of Lebanese protesters defiantly returned Sunday to rally outside parliament in Beirut, hours after security forces chased them out, using tear gas and rubber bullets and injuring dozens. The protests were largely peaceful, but some lobbed water bottles and fire-crackers at security forces guarding parliament. After a couple of hours, security forces chased them away, using batons and tear gas to disperse the crowd. Saturday night into Sunday saw one of the most violent crackdowns on protesters since nationwide anti-government demonstrations began two months ago, leading to the resignation of Prime Minister Saad Hariri on Oct. 29. The harsh use of force was largely carried out by security forces outside of the parliament building who reacted violently to an earlier attempt to hold a rally outside parliament. Attackers in northern Leba-



Supporters of the Shiite Hezbollah and Amal Movement groups, both supporting the current government, throw stones at riot policemen, as they try to attack anti-government protesters in downtown Beirut, Lebanon, Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019.

Associated Press

non also set fire to the offices of two major political parties, the state-run National News Agency said. The large crowd that was gathered Sunday largely dispersed by the evening but hundreds remained in the streets outside parlia-

ment. Many had come prepared with helmets and tear gas. After clashes that included the firing of tear gas, security forces then used water cannons to empty the area around parliament. The remaining protesters used plant

pots and bins to barricade themselves, drawing a front line in the street that just hours before was filled with protesters. Demonstrators had chanted against the security crackdown and called for an independent new head

of government unaffiliated with established political parties. The crowd, many raising Lebanese flags, said: "We won't leave, We won't leave. Just arrest all the protesters!" Others raised posters saying the tear gas won't keep them away. "We are crying already," said one, in a jab at the deep economic crisis Lebanese are facing. The streets leading to parliament were filled with men, women and even children. Some huddled in smaller groups while others were lifted on shoulders chanting in megaphones. The overnight confrontations in Beirut left more than 130 people injured, according to the Red Cross and the Lebanese Civil Defense. The Red Cross said none of the injured were in serious condition and most of them were treated on the spot. The violence and Sunday's rally came just hours before the president was due to meet with representatives of parliamentary blocs to name a new prime minister. □

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Ex-Sudan strongman al-Bashir gets 2 years for corruption

By NADIR AHMED
Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — A court in Sudan convicted former President Omar al-Bashir of money laundering

and corruption on Saturday, sentencing him to two years in prison. That's the first verdict in a series of legal proceedings against al-Bashir, who is

also wanted by the International Criminal Court on charges of war crimes and genocide linked to the Darfur conflict in the 2000s. The verdict came a year after Sudanese protesters first began their revolt against al-Bashir's three-decade authoritarian rule. During that time, Sudan landed on the U.S. list for sponsoring terrorism, and the economy has been battered by years of mismanagement and American sanctions. Before the verdict was read, supporters of al-Bashir briefly disrupted the proceedings and were pushed out of the courtroom by security forces. Al-Bashir, 75, has been in custody since April, when Sudan's military stepped in and removed him from power after months of nationwide protests. □



In this July 9, 2018, file photo, Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir attends a ceremony for Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, at the Presidential Palace in Ankara, Turkey.

Associated Press

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Strong quake kills 1, collapses building in Philippines

Associated Press

DAVAO, Philippines (AP) — A strong earthquake jolted the southern Philippines on Sunday, killing at least one person and causing a three-story building to collapse, setting off a search for people feared to have been trapped inside, officials said.

The magnitude 6.9 quake struck an area about 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) northwest of Padada town in Davao del Sur province at a depth of 30 kilometers (18 miles), according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

The area has been battered by a series of powerful quakes in recent months. A child was killed in a village in Davao del Sur's Matanao town when a wall of her house tumbled down as the ground shook and hit her in the head, officials said.

Davao del Sur Gov. Douglas Cagas said a three-

story building housing a grocery store collapsed in

downtown Padada during the quake, trapping an unspecified number of people inside. Search and

rescue efforts were underway, he told the DZMM radio network, adding that an unknown number of people were injured in his province. Matanao Mayor Vincent Fernandez said his two-story town hall was badly damaged by the intense shaking, along with two bridges and several buildings already weakened by previous quakes.

"The shaking was different this time, it wasn't swaying. It's like a roller was rumbling by underneath," Fernandez told DZMM from an emergency shelter.

As he was being interviewed, he paused briefly, saying the ground was shaking again in the latest of dozens of aftershocks. Fernandez appealed for food packs and tents to be used by residents who needed immediate shelter from the rainy weather. Many buildings that can be used as evacuation centers have been damaged by recent earthquakes, he said. □



Rescuers check a collapsed building following an earthquake that struck Padada, Davao del Sur province, southern Philippines on Sunday Dec. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

story building housing a grocery store collapsed in

downtown Padada during the quake, trapping an unspecified number of people inside. Search and

rescue efforts were underway, he told the DZMM radio network, adding that an unknown number of

people were injured in his province. Matanao Mayor Vincent Fernandez said his two-story town hall was badly damaged by the intense shaking, along with two bridges and several buildings already weakened by previous quakes.

Violence flares at Indian citizenship law protest in Delhi

By SHEIKH SAALIQ

Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Police fired tear-gas and struck demonstrators with batons on Sunday in India's capital city, where thousands, including students at the Jamia Millia Islamia University, protested against a new law that will give citizenship to non-Muslims fleeing religious

persecution from several neighboring countries. The third day of what had been a peaceful demonstration against the law, passed by India's Parliament last week, descended into chaos Sunday afternoon. Three buses were set on fire, police officials said. Chinmoy Biswal, a top police official, said that six po-

lice personnel were injured in the melee in an upscale enclave of south Delhi. Student organizers blamed outsiders for the violence. "We have time and again maintained that our protests are peaceful and non-violent," they said in a statement. "We stand by this approach and condemn any party involved in the violence." □



Passenger buses go up in flames during a protest against Citizenship Amendment Act in New Delhi, India, Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

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Toxic air, gases hamper search for last 2 volcano victims

By **MARK BAKER**
STEVE McMORRAN
Associated Press

WHAKATANE, New Zealand (AP) — A second land search of New Zealand's volcanic White Island on Sunday failed to locate the bodies of the last two victims of an eruption that has now claimed 16 lives, most of them tourists.

New Zealand police confirmed the 16th victim died Saturday at Sydney's Concord Hospital, one of several Australian hospitals where survivors suffering from severe burns were being treated. Ten of the dead are thought to be Australians. Of the 47 people on White Island when it erupted, 24 were Australian citizens and four more were permanent residents of Australia. Two four-person teams landed on the island by helicopter early Sunday morning and searched a location thought to be the most likely place where one of the bodies might be. The



This photo released by the New Zealand Defence Force shows an operation to recover bodies from White Island after a volcanic eruption in Whakatane, New Zealand, Friday, Dec. 13, 2019. Associated Press

teams, wearing heavy protective clothing, were using breathing apparatus that allowed them to search for only 75 minutes.

They were unable to locate either body and returned to the New Zealand mainland

where they underwent decontamination after being exposed to toxic ash and gases.

"We have always anticipated recovering all bodies from the island and we remain deeply committed

to that goal to allow families some closure," Police Deputy Commissioner John Tims said.

Later Sunday, divers were due to resume their search of waters around the island despite near zero visibility

that hampered their efforts on Saturday. Rescue teams had reported seeing a body in the sea a day after Monday's eruption.

Police have not included the two missing — believed to be a New Zealander tour guide and a boat captain who had taken tourists to the island — among the dead until their bodies are recovered. Police meanwhile released the names of five victims who have been formally identified. They include four Australians and one New Zealander. Among the dead are 15-year-old Zoe Hosking from Australia and her stepfather Gavin Dallow, 53. The first named victim was Krystal Browitt, a veterinary nursing student from Melbourne, Australia, who turned 21 on Nov. 29.

Ash and other fallout from the eruption has made the sea near the island toxic and divers have to be washed clean after every completed dive. □



Mexico's Treasury Secretary Arturo Herrera, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada Chrystia Freeland, Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, Mexico's top trade negotiator Jesus Seade and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, after signing an update to the North American Free Trade Agreement, in Mexico City, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

Mexico trade negotiator: We'll never accept US 'inspectors'

Associated Press
MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's trade negotiator for North America said Sunday that Mexico categorically opposes allowing foreign labor inspectors to operate in the country, saying that was not contemplated in the recent agreement with Washington and Ottawa on the USMCA pact to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Jesús Seade was flying to

Washington to meet with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and U.S. lawmakers to express his country's "surprise and concern" over language in implementation legislation introduced Friday in the U.S. Congress calling for the posting of up to five labor attaches to monitor Mexico's labor reform. Seade, an undersecretary in the Foreign Relations Department, said on Twitter

that while the proposed attaches exact functions are not yet clear, "Mexico will NEVER accept them if it is in any way about disguised inspectors, for one simple reason: Mexican law prohibits it."

"It is a very good agreement for Mexico: Much was obtained in the trilateral," he added. "That's why the U.S. needs 'extras' to sell it internally that WERE NOT PART OF THE PACKAGE." □

And the winner is...



PALM BEACH—Rogelio Campos will never forget this year's Christmas as he had the gift of his dreams last Saturday. The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba announced the winner of the amazing Deal (U.S.\$250,000 cash) or Wheel (Ferrari 448) Campaign.

The Master of Ceremony Mark Benson had the honor to announce the winner during this nerve-wracking grand finale, where 20 finalists had the opportunity to have the lucky card. But only one can win, and that one turned out to be Campos! It was a great party with the band Buleria... and lots of bubbles and games. Be ready for more fun at the casino, pass by and see what campaign is going on or just to play a game. Who knows you could be the next lucky winner. □



Azure Beach Residences hosts fantastic dinner concert: Fundraising for Symphony Festival with the incomparable guitarist Luis Quintero

PALM BEACH — Azure Beach Residences supports the Aruba Symphony Festival where first-class musicians from around the globe play free for the public. To assure that this wonderful event can continue a benefit dinner concert was organized last Saturday. Executive VP of Operations for Pering Group, Alberto Perret Gentil welcomed the guests in a full house.

He is a classical music lover himself and finds it important that the Aruba Symphony Festival continues to bring joy, entertainment and education to the island, Perret Gentil says. Azure Beach Residences show their commitment to local community by supporting the festival and hosting the fundraising event last Saturday. Well-known Aruban chef Irvin Croes took the honors for the culinary part together with Marriott's Director Food & Beverage Operations Teddy Bouroncle. They took care of a 5-course gourmet dinner that tasted like good music and was served by the staff of Azure who volunteered the night as waiters including Perret Gentil's wife. The evening was a typical case of let's put all hands together and the cherry on the pie

was a live concert of the 'maestro de guitarra' Luis Quintero. He is an internationally famous Venezuelan guitarist who just recently played here before he went on a tour in Mexico, has been coming to play in Aruba regularly since 2005 and has developed a profound love for our island and its people.

One of the motors behind the Aruba Symphony Festival and friend of the brothers Perret Gentil is Clyde Harms. For five years already Harms gives his best to pull the festival off with the challenge of keeping it as good as free for the public. His great friend Johnny Croes joins him. "It is challenging because we have full-house concerts, workshops, conferences and classes led by celebrated international artists." It is a unique concept within the Caribbean and the festival surprises every year again with the high-quality musicians brought in by founder Simon Gollo.

During the evening Harms also launched his book 'An Aruban in Libya' telling stories of his years with ESSO in Tripoli. Aruba Today will publish an article about the book



in tomorrow's edition.

Aruba Symphony festival would like to thank all that participated in the evening and the donators that made this event reality. □

Now at the Casa Del Mar Resort Top American standup comics perform in Aruba Ray Ellin's phenomenal show

EAGLE BEACH — The “Aruba Ray’s Comedy” show features some of the funniest American standup comedians in a terrific 90-minute show, now located - for December only - at Casa Del Mar Resort. Celebrating six years of Excellence in Aruba, Aruba Ray’s Comedy is the number one rated Night Time Activity on TripAdvisor, the number one rated Show on TripAdvisor, and the number one rated Fun Activity on TripAdvisor.

The show was named as one of USA Today’s “10 Best. This is the same caliber show you would find at the top comedy clubs



in NYC. The comedians are truly some of the best from the United States. This wonderful show is a great way to spend a night out. Advance tickets are suggested - - and are less expensive - - at [\[Comedy.com\]\(http://www.Aruba-Comedy.com\). Line-up is Dan Naturman, finalist on America’s Got Talent, Robert Kelly from “The Jimmy Fallon Show”, Tony V from CBS’ “The Late Show”, Christine Hurley from “Last Comic Standing” and Ray Ellin from “This week at the Comedy Cellar” on Comedy Central.](http://www.Aruba-</p>
</div>
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Ray Ellin hosts and produces the shows. Considered by his peers to be the best host in NYC, Ray is known as “Aruba Ray” because of his passion for Aruba. Ray has been coming to Aruba every month for the past seven years, and produces and hosts these incred-



ible comedy shows on the island. He is a popular comedian in New York, and has brought his talent and colleagues to Aruba. Ray has appeared on many television programs; he has hosted the popular talk show Late Net, and hosted the television shows The Movie Loft, Brain Fuel, and New York Now. He also produced and directed the very successful film The Latin Legends of Comedy, distributed by 20th Century Fox. Ray is an executive producer and co-star on the television show This Week at the Cellar, on Comedy Central.

er, and is giving visitors of Aruba an opportunity to see the show that so many people have embraced for the past several years.” The shows are at 8:30pm, every night, from December 2nd to December 20th, in the showroom at the Casa Del Mar Resort. Doors open at 8pm. It is suggested to arrive early - seating is first come first serve. To save money, it is suggested you purchase tickets in advance at www.ArubaComedy.com. You can also purchase tickets (subject to availability) at the showroom door at 7:30pm.

“I’m very excited to do the show for the first time in the low-rise area!” said Ellin. “Casa Del Mar has a cozy showroom that is really excellent for comedy, and the GM of the Resort, Bob Curtis, is bringing great entertainment to a timeshare and forward-thinking lead-

Anyone can attend, however the show is suggested for a mature audience. You can now also purchase dinner and a show, online, at www.ArubaComedy.com. Enjoy dinner at 6:30pm, before the show begins! Ask your concierge for assistance, or call Casa Del Mar at 582-7000 or call Aruba Ray’s Comedy Club at 749-4363. □

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Aruba's tourists make a difference with the 'Carry Your Cup' pledge



NOORD — Jolly Pirates raises a re-usable cup to Green Solutions with tourists aboard the most popular tourist attraction. With a special invitation to their guest to participate in their campaign of #Carryourcup, Jolly Pirates proves to be eco-friendly and support Green initiatives.

It's a simple concept. Jolly

Pirates Snorkel and Sunset Charters asks visitors to help to reduce waste with the #carryourcup pledge. Bring your own cup or purchase a Jolly Pirate reusable BPA-free option instead of using wasteful single-use disposable plastic. You can do your part to reduce waste by using a reusable cup aboard a Jolly Pirates morning or af-

ternoon snorkel cruise or a lovely sunset sail. Guests are encouraged to join the movement, to limit wasteful plastic in Aruba's landfill and from inadvertently polluting the Sea. "If you love the ocean like we do, you naturally want to do something about it", explains the ship's Captains Julio, Ron and Edwin. Reusable cups can be pur-

chased at the Jolly Pirates souvenir shop. Both great-looking and durable, the Jolly Pirates BPA-free reusable cup provides an easy way to join the #carryourcup pledge for a cleaner Aruba and a healthier environment for sea critters, fish and wildlife. The Jolly Pirates #carryourcup campaign is just one of many eco-friendly ways in which the popular excursion company, is striving to support more clean Aruba efforts. The Jolly Pirates team partici-

pates in Aruba Reef Care projects, Beach clean ups and also participates in the #5minutebeachcleanup to pick up trash that others have left behind. You can purchase a souvenir cup when you visit the Jolly Pirates ticket shop at MooMba Beach. You can also make paperless reservations online and can save up to 20% on your Jolly Pirates Cruises on the company's new website www.jolly-pirates.com or call 586 – 8107 for more information. □





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Aruba to Me

ORANJESTAD – Aruba Today likes to welcome readers to participate in our newspaper. You can see that in our Honored Guest-publications, specials like on Valentine’s Day and on other occasions. Throughout the year you are always welcome to send us your vacation picture(s) together with completing the sentence: Aruba to me is (Email: news@arubatoday.com)

For today’s newspaper we received a great picture from **Carmela Villari** from Saddle Brook, New Jersey. She wrote:

Aruba to us is.... Pure Love!

Carmela & Joseph have been coming to the island for 15 consecutive years. They are loyal guests at the Hilton Aruba. They love spending time together and show their love to each other as you can see on this picture taken at Giannis Restaurant. ☐



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<p>Tuesday at 8:00pm</p> <p>Aruba Has Talent</p>	<p>Saturday at 8:00pm</p> <p>Violin Night</p>
<p>Wednesday at 8:00pm</p> <p>Noche Latina</p>	<p>Sunday at 8:00pm</p> <p>Aruba Has Talent</p>
<p>Thursday at 8:00pm</p> <p>Circus Night</p>	<p>Every night at 7:30pm 8:30pm 9:30pm</p> <p>Liquid Firework Show</p>

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SETAR Complete 60+



ORANJESTAD — SETAR introduces their newest package especially for seniors named 'SETAR Complete 60+' which includes an increase in free minutes for fixed telephone lines.

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For more information check out the website www.setar.aw or call +297 525-1700. Clients 60+ interested to apply for the service must pass by any Setar Telshop or Setar Store. ☐

Aruban born and bred Steve Francees has a passion for photography. Being a local photographer he knows the hidden gems of this island and captures them in an amazing way. As a Family and Landscape photographer Steve is ready to create your next 'vacation memories', morning and/or sunset shots. T: (297) 738-0777, M: stevefrancees@hotmail.com, www.instagram.com/stevefrancees and www.stevefrancees.com



The Aruban 'ayaca' (Hallaca)



It's our tradition to make ayaca as part of the Holiday celebration. The ayaca is a Venezuelan dish that moved into our island of Aruba. The word hallaca evolved from the indigenous Guarani Language meaning "to mix or blend". We get together as family at a big table in our kitchen, listen to Gaita music when we all as family make the ayaca. The ayaca is made with corn dough stuffed with stew chicken, meat or pork, olives, onions, raisins, green/red pepper, almonds and other ingredients depending on the family tradition. In our family we come together the 24th in the evening and will eat together as family with our neighbors and friends.

Boca Grandi



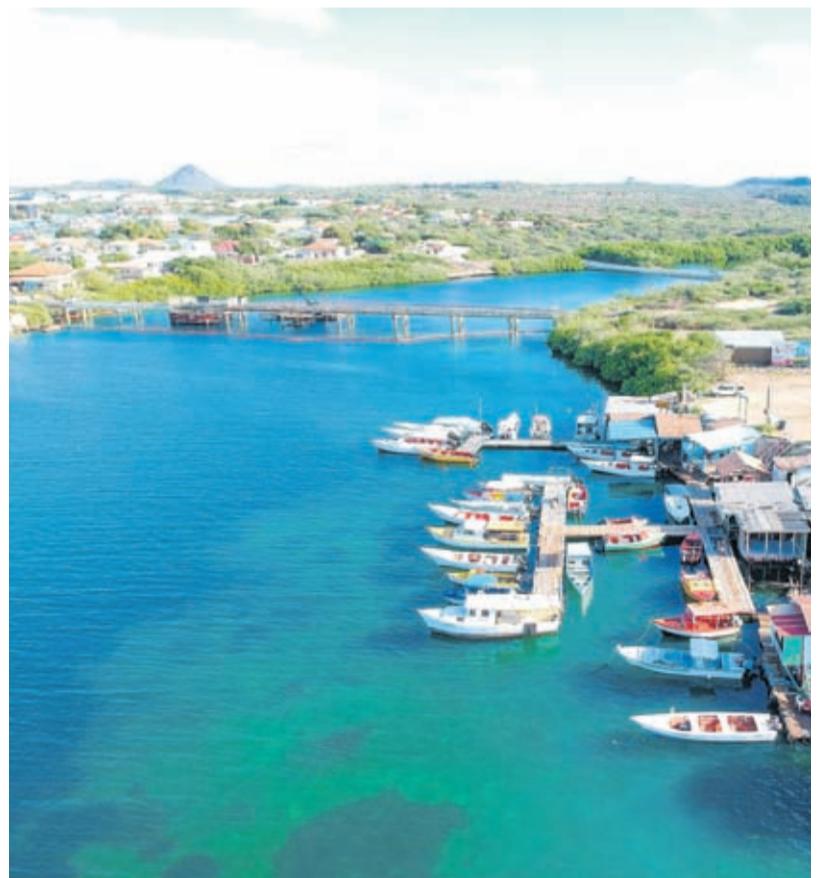
This beach is very famous for kite surfing and to get to this beach you must turn left at the red anchor on your way to Baby Beach. If you want a breezy morning walk sure this will be your best beach to do your walk. Far right you will see the wind turbines at Vader Piet.

Cruise ships in the view



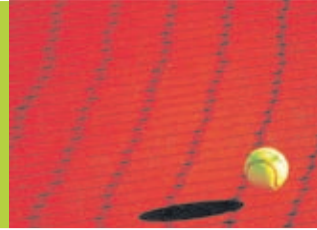
I've never been on a cruise ship and I don't know when I will do that. My parents are in love with cruise ships. In the 60's and 70's they went many times for a month on cruise ships from the Caribbean to Europe. But I like taking photos of cruise ships and a few weeks ago I took this photo.

Where to buy fish



I occasionally get the questions where to buy fresh fish and in this photo you will get where to buy fish and not get lost. The last time I sent some friends and they ended up in San Nicolas so now you know where to turn. At the traffic circle at Pos Chikito turn right then left and keep going till Tele Aruba. Turn right till the end of the road, stop your car and go down the stairs and tell them that Steve send you here to buy fish if not that's not a problem because they don't pay me any commission.

SPORTS



U.S. team player and captain Tiger Woods watches his shot from the 11th tee in his singles match during the President's Cup golf tournament at Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Melbourne, Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

Tiger Woods and U.S. team rally to win Presidents Cup again

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — High emotions, fierce hugs from Tiger Woods, this time as a winner both ways in the Presidents Cup.

Woods capped off a big year that began with his 15th major at the Masters by playing and leading his U.S. team to another victory in the Presidents Cup on Sunday at Royal Melbourne.

The first playing captain in 25 years, he opened the 12 singles matches by beating Abraham Ancer to set the Presidents Cup record with his 27th match victory, and set the tone for the rest of his team.

The scoreboard was filled with American red scores all day as they rallied from a two-point deficit to win the Presidents Cup for the eighth straight time against an International team that faltered at the worst time.

Continued on Page 21



BRONCO BUSTER

Denver struggles against Kansas City in the snow

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes avoids a tackle by Denver Broncos defensive lineman Mike Purcell, rear, during the second half of an NFL football game in Kansas City, Mo., Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019.

Associated Press
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AP source: Indians send Kluber to Texas for DeShields, Clase

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Corey Kluber's run as Cleveland's ace appears to be over. He's heading to Texas.

The Indians are close to completing a trade that will send the two-time Cy Young Award winner to the Rangers, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Sunday.

Cleveland will get outfielder Delino DeShields and pitching prospect Emmanuel Clase for the 33-year-old Kluber.

The teams have been discussing the deal and finalizing terms, said the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks. All that remains are physicals.

Kluber has been one of the AL's most dominant pitchers for six seasons. The right-hander won the Cy Young in 2014 and 2017 while anchoring the Indians' strong starting staff.

But his future with the Indians grew more uncertain last season when the club managed to stay in the playoff chase until late September despite not having him after May 1.

Kluber broke his right forearm when he was struck by a line drive during a start at Miami and never made it back. He came close to returning to the Indians' rotation but suffered an oblique injury during a minor league rehab appearance that ended his comeback.

The Indians picked up his \$17.5 million contract option for 2020 immediately after last season. His deal includes a club option for \$18 million for 2021.

A three-time All-Star, Kluber is 98-58 with a 3.16 career ERA. Before last season, he pitched at least 203 innings in each of the previous five seasons while recording more than 200 strikeouts in each of those seasons as well.

The Indians believe the time is right to move Kluber. Cleveland has several young solid pitchers, including Shane Bieber and



In this March 11, 2019, file photo, Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Corey Kluber throws a warm up pitch before a spring training baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds in Goodyear, Ariz. Associated Press

Mike Clevinger, on its staff needs in return for Kluber. hit .249 with 24 stolen bases and can address other The 27-year-old DeShields es for Texas last season.

Clase, a 21-year-old righty, skipped the Triple-A level last season and made his big league debut with the Rangers in August, going 2-3 with a 2.31 ERA in mostly a relief role.

Kluber won 20 games for the Indians in 2018 and he had 18 victories in 2014, 2016, and 2017. Kluber will join a Rangers rotation that includes All-Star Mike Minor and Lance Lynn, who both reached 200 innings and 200 strikeouts last season.

Texas went 78-84, then missed out on a pair of free-agent targets at the recent winter meetings, watching star pitcher Gerrit Cole and slugger Anthony Rendon sign with other teams.

Kluber gets a \$1 million assignment bonus for getting traded. □

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Chiefs roll to 23-3 victory over Broncos at snowy Arrowhead

By **DAVE SKRETTA**

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)

— The Kansas City Chiefs turned Arrowhead Stadium into their own winter wonderland Sunday, mushing through the snow to an easy victory over the Denver Broncos as they march toward another postseason filled with possibilities. Patrick Mahomes threw for 340 yards and two touchdowns, and Tyreek Hill and Travis Kelce were on the receiving end of many of his biggest throws, as the AFC West champions romped to a 23-3 victory over the rebuilding Broncos to remain in the hunt for the No. 2 playoff seed and a potential first-round bye.

"It was awesome. A lot of fun," said Mahomes, who showed no lingering effects from the hand his bruised last week.

"The guys were embracing it. We knew it was going to snow. We practice in cold weather a lot. So you get there, you're already accustomed to it, and you go out there and play."

Like a bunch of kids getting a snow day from school, the Chiefs enjoyed every minute of it.

Hill caught five passes for 67 yards and both scores, and Kelce hauled in 11 catches for 142 yards to become the first tight end in NFL history with four consecutive 1,000-yard receiving seasons, helping the Chiefs (10-4) beat the Broncos for the ninth straight time.

Denver (5-9) hasn't won in Kansas City since Sept. 17, 2015.

The Chiefs outscored their longtime division rival 53-9 this season.

"You just attack it. You can't let weather get into how you're playing the game or disrupt how you're playing the game," Kelce said.



Kansas City Chiefs defensive end Alex Okafor (97) sacks Denver Broncos quarterback Drew Lock (3) during the first half of an NFL football game in Kansas City, Mo., Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

"That's the biggest thing in terms of mindset, going out there and not letting anything distract you."

Whether it was the weather or the suddenly stout Chiefs defense, the Broncos were so inept offensively that Kelce had more yards receiving at the start of the fourth quarter than they had total offense (139 yards).

Phillip Lindsay was bottled up on the ground, and former Missouri standout Drew Lock — who grew up in the Kansas City suburb of Lee's Summit, Missouri — spent most of the day seeing red jerseys bearing down on him.

The rookie quarterback was 18 of 40 for 208 yards and an egregious interception in the end zone.

"I think he handled the conditions well. I think it's a game under these conditions that he can bank and learn from," said Broncos coach Vic Fangio, whose team was eliminated from

playoff contention for the fourth straight season. "I didn't see him get flustered out there and frustrated so that part was good."

That was about the only good part. The Broncos finished with 251 yards, went 5 of 14 on third down and 1 of 3 on fourth, and were penalized seven times for 72 yards.

They also went 0 for 2 in the red zone.

"When you play a team as good as the Chiefs," Fangio said, "you can't do that."

Flurries began to fall overnight, far earlier than meteorologists had predicted, and the intensifying snow caused major problems for people trying to get to the stadium.

There were spin-outs and car accidents throughout the metro area, and there was some concern that players might be delayed in getting to the stadium in time for warmups.

An hour before kickoff, dozens of workers were clear-

ing off the yard lines, end zones and sidelines as the snow swirled inside the stadium.

It really began to pick up again at halftime, obscuring Kauffman Stadium about a quarter mile away, and stadium workers flooded the field to clear what they could during every timeout.

It wasn't long until Andy Williams' sonorous voice over the loudspeakers made the snow globe atmosphere complete.

And for the Chiefs, it seemed indeed like the most wonderful time of the year.

They effortlessly marched downfield for a touchdown on their opening drive, then got a trio of field goals from Harrison Butker on their next three first-half possessions to build a 12-3 lead.

When they received the kickoff to start the second half, Mahomes took them right downfield again, finding Hill for their second TD

connection of the game.

The Broncos didn't force a punt until there was about six minutes left in the third quarter.

By that point, the game was pretty much over.

The biggest cheers the rest of the way were for the Cincinnati Bengals, who were trying to knock off the New England Patriots. They couldn't hold an early lead, though, and that left the Chiefs needing to win out and the Patriots to drop one of their final two games to move ahead of them in the playoff pecking order.

"That was very fun," said Hill, who left the game after a couple of hard hits but returned to finish it out.

"This is my first snow game and I had a blast with it. I don't want to do it again because it's very cold, but I had fun with it."

STATS AND STREAKS

Lindsay had 32 yards rushing and the Broncos finished with 52 as a team. ... Broncos LB Von Miller had the 105th sack of his career. He needs one more to move into the top 25 in NFL history. ...

The Chiefs have held four straight opponents to 20 points or fewer and two of the past three to 10 points or fewer.

INJURIES

Chiefs: DE Alex Okafor hurt his chest while sacking Lock in the first half and did not return. ... RB Damien Williams (ribs) and CBs Morris Claiborne (shoulder) and Rashad Fenton (hamstring) were inactive.

Broncos: TE Noah Fant left after landing hard on his right shoulder.

He returned in the second half. ... DLs Dre'Mont Jones (ankle), Marcus Walker (ankle) and Adam Gotsis (knee) were inactive.

OT Ja'Wuan James (knee) also did not play. □



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Tiger Woods and U.S. team rally to win Presidents Cup again

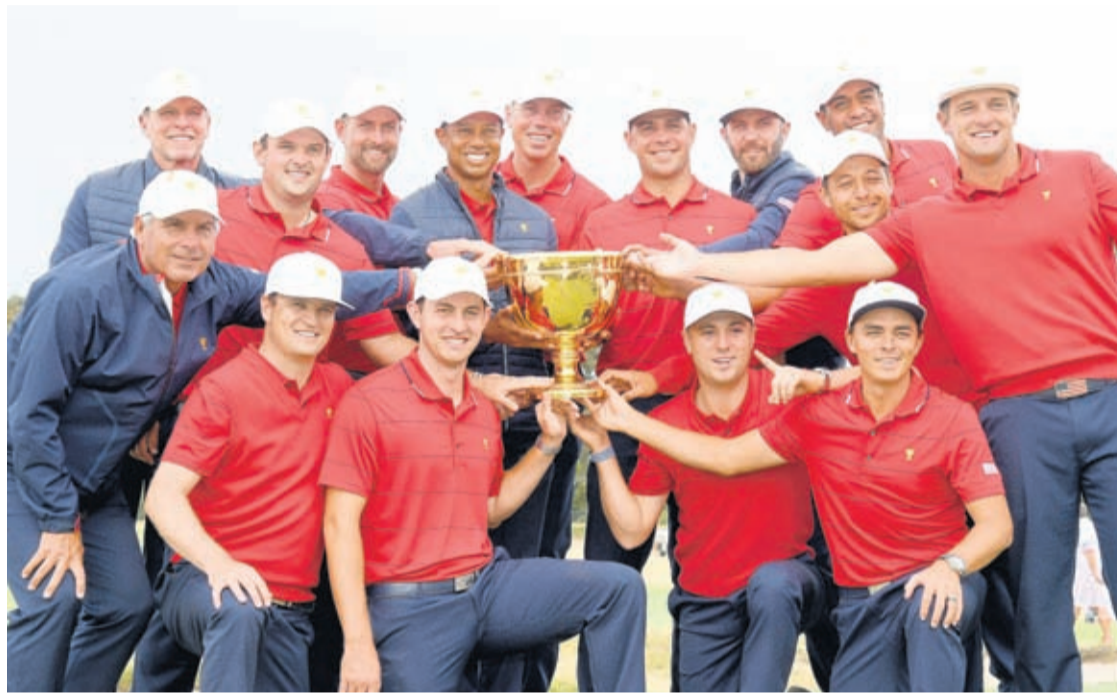
Continued from Page 18

Matt Kuchar delivered the clinching putt, a 5-footer for birdie that assured him a halve against Louis Oosthuizen and gave the Americans the 15 1/2 points they needed to win.

"For us to be in a hole, to come back and win this thing ... to win it as a team, but to do it with Tiger Woods as our captain was just a huge thrill," Kuchar said.

They result was 16-14, and at least this one was a contest. The U.S. victory two years ago at Liberty National was so resounding that it nearly ended on Saturday. International captain Ernie Els was determined to turn it around. He created a new logo for the International team. He relied heavily on analytics. It still wasn't enough.

"I followed a plan, and it didn't quite work out, but we came damn close," Els said. "If you compare our team on paper with other teams in other sport, you would have laughed us out of the building. But we gave it a hell of a go and we came mightily close to winning and upsetting one of the greatest golf teams of all time."



The U.S. team hold their trophy after they won the President's Cup golf tournament at Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Melbourne, Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019. The U.S. team won the tournament 16-14.

Els thought back to Friday, when the Americans won two matches with birdies on the 18th hole and rallied to halve another to keep the International lead from growing.

On Sunday, all he saw was U.S. momentum that couldn't be stopped.

"We gave you everything we had," Els said to Woods at the closing ceremony. "You were the better team."

Woods hugged everyone hard, players and vice captains alike, wearing a smile not seen since he walked off the 18th green at Augusta National after becoming a Masters champion again after injuries that nearly ended his career.

"We relied on one another as a team, and we did it — together," Woods said, his voice choked slightly with emotion. "This cup wasn't going to be given to us. We

had to go earn it. And we did."

Els fashioned the youngest International team from a record nine countries from everywhere outside Europe and took a 10-8 lead into the final day, the first time it had the edge in 16 years. It wasn't enough.

Patrick Reed, whose cadie was benched for shoving a fan who had cursed Reed from close range Saturday, built a 6-up lead

through seven holes before eventually putting away C.T. Pan to win for the first time this week.

Webb Simpson, who played with Reed as they lost all three team matches, never trailed in beating Byeong Hun An. Everyone on the U.S. team contributed something.

With so much red on the board, Tony Finau might have been his team the biggest boost. He was 4 down through 10 holes against Hideki Matsuyama, won the next four holes and earned a half-point.

It came down to the final hole in South Korea four years ago. This time, the Americans were assured of a tie if the Internationals were to win the last three matches, creating at least a little drama.

But it was a familiar ending. The Americans now are 11-1-1 in an event that began in 1994.

"It's hard to digest," said Adam Scott, who has played in nine Presidents Cup without ever winning. "It's incredibly disappointing but ... I like where this team is going, and I'll be working really hard now to be on the team in two more years." □

Associated Press

Magic hand Pelicans franchise-record 12th straight loss

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Jonathan Isaac had 21 points and 10 rebounds and the Orlando Magic beat New Orleans 130-119 on Sunday, sending the Pelicans to their franchise-record 12th straight loss.

Orlando center Nikola Vucevic returned from a sprained ankle to score 20 points. He played 29 minutes in his first game since Nov. 20.

The Magic snapped a three-game losing streak. Jrue Holiday led the Pelicans with 29 points and eight assists.

J.J. Redick added 23 points against the team that drafted him in the first round in 2006.

The Magic led 58-57 at half-time and pulled away with a 41-point third quarter. Isaac had 11 points in the quarter.

TIP-INS

Magic: D.J. Augustin had 17 points, and Evan Fournier 16. On Saturday night, Augustin, a New Orleans native, became the first athlete in any sport to have his jersey retired at Brother Martin High School. Augustin, who wore No. 14, led the school to two Louisiana state championships and is the program's career scoring leader. ... □



New Orleans Pelicans guard Jrue Holiday (11) dribbles against Orlando Magic guard Evan Fournier in the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019.

Associated Press

LSU QB Joe Burrow wins Heisman Trophy in landslide vote

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**

AP College Football Writer NEW YORK (AP) — Born into a family of Cornhuskers and raised in the Buckeye state, Joe Burrow left his roots behind and became a Heisman Trophy winner at LSU.

The quarterback won the Heisman on Saturday night in a record-breaking landslide, becoming the first LSU player to bring college football's most prestigious award back to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 60 years.

Burrow received 2,608 points and 841 first-place votes, a record 90.7% of all the first-place votes available. Burrow also set a record for percentage of points available received with 93.8, breaking the mark of 91.6% set by Troy Smith of Ohio State in 2006. Burrow was named on 95.5% of all ballots, breaking the record of 95.2% set by Oregon's Marcus Mariota in 2014.

Burrow's margin of victory of 1,846 points broke the record of 1,750 set by O.J. Simpson of Southern California in 1968.

Oklahoma quarterback Jalen Hurts was second with 762 points. Quarterback Justin Fields of Ohio State was third and defensive end Chase Young of Ohio State was fourth.

Burrow transferred last year to LSU from Ohio State, where he was a sparingly used reserve. After finishing strong for the Tigers in 2018, he broke out this season, setting a Southeastern Conference record with 48 touchdown passes and leading top-ranked LSU (13-0) to its first College Football Playoff appearance.

Burrow's victory was a fore-



NCAA college football player, LSU quarterback Joe Burrow poses for a photo after winning the Heisman Trophy, Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019, in New York.

gone conclusion, but after he was announced as the winner it still overwhelmed him.

"That's the most I've cried in 23 years of living," Burrow said later.

After hugging his parents and coaches, Burrow made his way to the stage inside the PlayStation Theater in Times Square. He started his acceptance speech, stopped and took 23 seconds to compose himself before rattling off the names of LSU's other offensive players.

"All my teammates have supported me, welcomed me with open arms. Kid from Ohio, come down to the Bayou, and welcomed me as brothers," Burrow said, with about two dozen former Heisman winners standing behind him on stage.

"What a special moment," LSU coach Ed Orgeron said. "I thought Joe handled ev-

erything first class. It's the first time I've seen him get that emotional."

The Tigers will face No. 4 Oklahoma and Hurts on Dec. 28 at the Peach Bowl in Atlanta.

"I'm ready to get back to Baton Rouge and start practice on Monday," Burrow said.

Burrow, a senior, blended perfectly with first-year LSU passing game coordinator Joe Brady and produced the most prolific offense in school history. Playing in a version of the offense Drew Brees runs for the New Orleans Saints, Burrow has shown accuracy and quick decision-making similar to his childhood idol. With at least one game left, Burrow has passed for 4,715 yards and is completing 77.9% of his passes, on pace to set an NCAA record.

The kid who grew up thinking he might play college basketball has blossomed

into the possible first overall pick in April's NFL draft, and LSU's second Heisman winner. Halfback Billy Cannon won the Heisman for LSU in 1959. The 60-year gap between Heisman victories for LSU is the largest for any school with multiple winners.

Burrow is the 17th quarterback to win the Heisman since 2000, and the third straight QB to win the award after transferring, joining Oklahoma's Baker Mayfield (2017) and Kyler Murray (2018).

Burrow's dad, Jimmy Burrow, was a longtime college football coach who played at Nebraska. He spent the last 14 years of his career as defensive coordinator at Ohio University in Athens before retiring to spend his weekends watching his son play.

"It's been a dream season for him as well," Burrow said.

Joe Burrow grew up in The Plains, Ohio. His older brothers both played at Nebraska.

His father's old boss, Ohio coach Frank Solich, hoped the youngest Burrow boy would play for the Bobcats, but Joe took off in high school. Burrow was Mr. Football in Ohio in 2014 and signed with Ohio State the next year.

In Columbus, Ohio, Burrow joined an already loaded quarterback room with J.T. Barrett, Cardale Jones and Braxton Miller. Burrow red-shirted as a freshman and played a little in 2016.

In 2017, he was competing with Dwayne Haskins to be Barrett's backup and broke his hand in preseason practice. That opened the door for Haskins to position himself as the quarterback of the future for Ohio State.

After spring practice in 2018, having already graduated from Ohio State, Burrow decided to transfer. LSU wasn't his first choice, but Orgeron recruited the quarterback hard.

"He gave me an opportunity when not a lot of people thought I was going to do anything," Burrow said. "He trusted me with his program." Burrow was interested in Nebraska, but that interest wasn't reciprocated. Cincinnati seemed like a possibility, playing for former Ohio State assistant coach Luke Fickell.

A visit to LSU, with its 100,000-seat stadium, history of winning, southern hospitality and SEC competition, won over Burrow. Orgeron has called Burrow his most important recruit and maybe the most important recruit in the history of LSU football. □

Associated Press

Possible 'white power' hand signs at Army-Navy game probed

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Army and Navy academies are looking into hand signs flashed by students that can be associated with "white power" and were televised during the Army-Navy football game on Saturday, school officials said.

Cadets at West Point and

midshipmen at the Naval Academy in the stands both appeared to display the sign during the broadcast, officials with the two military academies told The Wall Street Journal. The gesture was seen during an ESPN broadcast segment.

School officials are trying

to determine what the hand signals were meant to convey, they said.

"We're looking into it," Lt. Col. Chris Ophardt, a spokesperson for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York, told the Journal.

"I don't know what their intention is."

"We are aware and will be looking into it," said Cmdr. Alana Garas, a spokesperson for the U.S. Naval Academy, in Annapolis, Maryland.

The Pentagon didn't immediately respond to the Journal's request for comment.

The hand sign is similar to

the one often used to indicate "OK," but the Anti-Defamation League says it has lately been used as an extremist meme, in part because of its ambiguity. U.S. Coast Guard leaders last year reprimanded an officer who used a similar hand sign during a television broadcast. □



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Crawford stops Kavaliauskas to defend welterweight title

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Terence Crawford's latest opponent had not only never been knocked down, but Crawford couldn't recall seeing him even hurt.

Then again, he'd never been in a ring with a fighter like Crawford before.

Crawford dropped Egidijus Kavaliauskas three times before stopping him in the ninth round Saturday night to remain unbeaten and defend his welterweight title at Madison Square Garden.

"I wanted to give the crowd a knockout," Crawford said. "When I started letting my hands go, I started landing more fatal shots."

Crawford knocked down the challenger once in the seventh round and twice more in the ninth before referee Ricky Gonzalez stopped it at 44 seconds of the round.

Crawford (36-0, 27 KOs) absorbed perhaps more shots than usual but seemed to enjoy getting to show he has power, too, letting out a big smile as Kavaliauskas returned to his corner looking frustrated after one round late in the fight.

"I thought I had to entertain you all for a little bit," Crawford said. "He's a strong fighter, durable, and I thought I'd give the crowd something to cheer for."

Kavaliauskas (21-1-1), a Lithuanian who was the mandatory challenger for Crawford's WBO belt, had some good moments in the first few rounds before Crawford took control midway through the fight and then poured it on late.

Crawford fought cautiously at the outset and Kavaliauskas showed why



Terence Crawford, right, punches Lithuania's Egidijus Kavaliauskas, knocking him down for a TKO in the ninth round of a WBO welterweight boxing match, Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

there was reason to when he landed a big right early in the third round and then a couple more punches inside as Crawford tried to hold on. Crawford ended up going to a knee but Kavaliauskas wasn't credited with a knockdown, the referee apparently determining Crawford had been pushed down.

Crawford said afterward he wasn't hurt by that shot and it wasn't long before he was the one doing more damage.

Kavaliauskas kept throwing big punches that drove Crawford backward when they landed, but Crawford used his speed advantage to slip out of the way of many of them while landing his own combinations.

Crawford took a hard shot early in the seventh but then began answering and finally caught Kavaliauskas with a looping right near the ear that sent him to the canvas.

Crawford finished it two rounds later, first using a three-punch combination to set up a right uppercut that sent Kavaliauskas to the canvas. He got up but Crawford then threw a right hook that returned the two-time Olympian to the canvas and the fight was immediately waved off.

The 32-year-old Crawford bristled this week when asked if getting in tougher fights would earn him extra appreciation, saying all that mattered was win-

ning. But this fight certainly appeared harder than the skilled Nebraska native's first three after moving up to welterweight, all stoppages, after he won all four major belts at 140.

He's still searching for better opposition in the deep 147-pound division and promoter Bob Arum indicated Crawford may look next to veteran Shawn Porter, who is coming off a competitive loss to Errol Spence Jr. in a unification bout in September.

A Crawford-Spence bout would likely be the most attractive possible, but Spence was injured in a car accident and it's unknown when he can fight again. That could leave Porter as the next choice.

"Porter is the next best guy," Arum said. "He proved himself with Spence."

Crawford said he's ready for whichever fighter is next.

"I'll fight anybody. I've been saying that for I don't know how long," Crawford said.

Earlier, Teofimo Lopez won a lightweight belt with a second-round stoppage of Richard Commey, and Michael Conlan beat Olympic rival Vladimir Nikitin.

Lopez (15-0, 12 KOs) was spectacular in his first title fight, wobbling Commey with a left hand early in the second round and then flooring him with a hard right hand. He finished the fight with a barrage of punches in the corner and perhaps next moves on to a 135-pound unification bout with two-time Olympic gold medalist Vasiliy Lomachenko.

Conlan (13-0, 7 KOs) had lost to Nikitin twice as an amateur, including in the 2016 Olympic quarterfinals. He blasted the international boxing federation for being corrupt after the decision was announced and extended his middle finger to the judges at ringside.

He had also lost a close fight to Nikitin in 2013 but the judges saw this one as no contest, giving Conlan a lopsided decision by scores of 100-90, 99-91 and 98-92. □

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NATO researchers: Social media failing to stop manipulation

By **KELVIN CHAN**
AP Business Writer

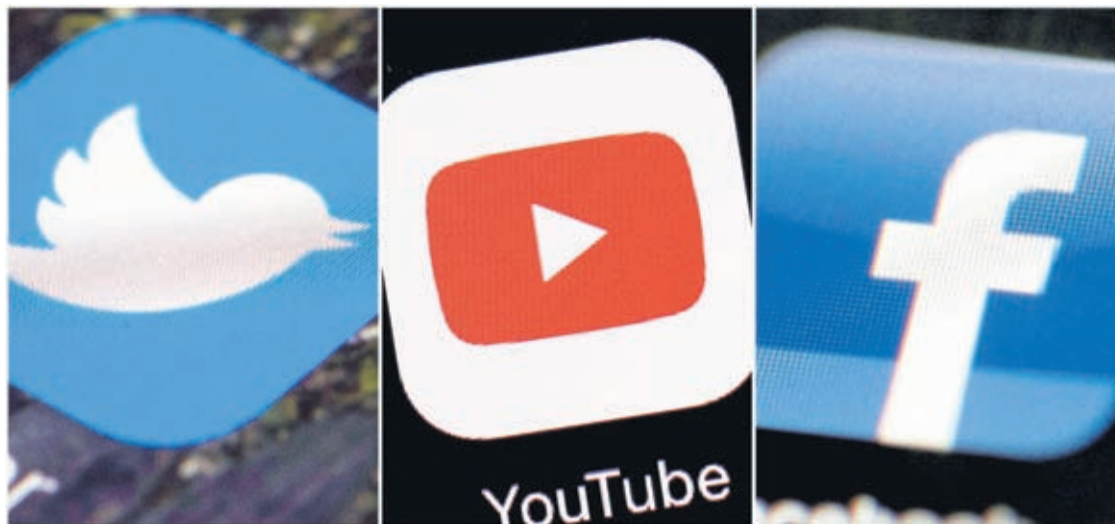
LONDON (AP) — Social media companies are failing to stop manipulated activity, according to a report Friday by NATO-affiliated researchers who said they were easily able to buy tens of thousands of likes, comments and views on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.

Most of the phony accounts and the activity they engaged in remained online weeks later, even after researchers at the NATO Strategic Command Centre of Excellence flagged them up as fake.

The center, an independent group based in Latvia that advises the military alliance, said the findings contrast with statements from tech companies that say they've been working harder on stamping out manipulation.

"Overall social media companies are experiencing significant challenges in countering the malicious use of their platforms," the report said.

Online manipulation emerged as a major issue for tech companies af-



This combination of images shows logos for companies from left, Twitter, YouTube and Facebook. Associated Press

ter the 2016 U.S. election, when Russian influence efforts came to light. The researchers found that most fake social media activity is bought for commercial, not political, reasons. It can include Instagram influencers trying to pump up their profiles to make more money from their brand contracts. Fake accounts are still used for political means, though it's a minor slice of the industry and aimed at "non-western" pages, the researchers said, noting they were used to buy engagement on hundreds of political pages and dozens

of government pages. To carry out the study, the researchers turned to the "manipulation service provider" industry, which is expanding to feed the growing demand for phony clicks and likes. They used 16 companies, most based in Russia, to buy fake online engagement for 105 posts on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. They spent just 300 euros (\$330) to purchase 3,530 comments, 25,750 likes, 20,000 views and 5,100 followers. To avoid influencing real conversations, they only bought clicks for posts that

were at least six months old and carried neutral and non-political messages, such as "Hello!" and "Thank you!" on New Year's greetings from European Union commissioners. Four weeks later, 80% of the fake activity remained online, the researchers found, as they sought to gauge whether the sites were independently detecting misuse. They then reported 100 of the accounts as fake, but found about 95 remained active three weeks later. Some companies were better than others, the re-

port said. YouTube was the easiest site on which to create fake accounts but the best at countering artificial likes and video views.

Manipulating Instagram is easy and cheap because the site is largely unable to detect and stop it, while Twitter was best at detecting and removing manipulation.

Facebook was best at stopping fake accounts, but any that got through were more successful because they faced little further scrutiny, and their comments and views weren't removed. Facebook says it disabled 2.2 billion fake accounts in the first quarter of this year.

"Fake engagement tactics remain a challenge facing the entire industry," Facebook, which also owns Instagram, said in a statement.

"We're making massive investments to find and remove fake accounts and engagement every day." YouTube said it takes any abuse of its systems seriously and has invested in technology to prevent the artificial inflation of video view counts. □

Florida city mum on ransom demands by cyberattackers

By **BOBBY CAINA CALVAN**
and **FRANK BAJAK**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A Florida city confirmed Friday that hackers seeking to extort money were responsible for crippling its computer systems earlier this week but officials have yet to decide whether they will pay a reported \$1 million ransom.

If they do opt to fork over the money, they may have to dip into Pensacola city coffers; the city of about 52,000 in Florida's Panhandle — whose annual budget is roughly \$245 million — is not insured for such an attack.

Obtaining it in the future is "something that our risk manager will certainly be looking into," said city spokeswoman Kaycee Lagarde.

Lagarde confirmed that ransomware was behind

the attack that brought down the city's computer network over the weekend, less than a day after a Saudi aviation student killed three U.S. sailors and wounded eight other people at a nearby naval air station.

The FBI has said the attacks were not connected.

The cybersecurity blog BleepingComputer reported earlier this week that a group behind a ransomware strain known as Maze claimed responsibility for the attack and was demanding \$1 million from the city.

In emails exchanged with the website, the Maze hackers claimed they had stolen documents from the city but didn't say whether they had given Pensacola officials a deadline to pay for them or if they had threatened to release the

documents if they didn't pay. BleepingComputer editor Lawrence Abrams said the Maze operators had authenticated their identity with proof of a different hack and by posting snippets of email exchanges with his blog on a dark-web payment site.

City officials declined to discuss who might have been responsible or any ransom amount demanded against the city.

The city said it has restored some services, including email, phone services and utility online bill payments. Ransomware infections reached epidemic dimensions this year, and security researchers are concerned ransomware could also disrupt next year's U.S. presidential elections.

According to a new report released this week by the cybersecurity firm Emsisoft,

more than 948 U.S. government agencies, educational institutions and health care providers were hit in an unprecedented barrage at a potential cost of more than \$7.5 billion.

New Jersey's largest hospital system and the city of New Orleans are among the most recent U.S. ransomware victims.

In New Orleans, investigators discovered ransomware as they looked into a suspected cyberattack that led to a shutdown of city computers on Friday. City officials said they had not received a ransom demand, however, and it was initially unclear whether the attack did any damage to the city's system.

In May, a cyberattack hobbled Baltimore's computer network and cost the city more than \$18 million to repair.

City officials refused to pay demands for \$76,000 in bitcoin.

During the summer, two Florida cities — Riviera Beach and Lake City — paid hackers more than \$1 million combined after being targeted.

Pensacola officials became aware of the cyberattack against their city about 1:30 a.m. Saturday. Ever since, information technology technicians have been working to restore services as city officials continued to take stock of the damage, if any, and determine what information might have been compromised or stolen by the hackers.

Lagarde would not say whether any personal or financial data was breached. She said the city would notify residents and customers as warranted. □

Dozens apply to open marijuana businesses in now-legal Maine

By PATRICK WHITTLE
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — The first week of applications to open marijuana businesses in Maine has been busy, with dozens of prospective businesses lining up to sell, grow or make edible products with the newly legal drug. The state started taking the applications on Dec. 5, and it has received 76 of them so far, according to the Maine Office of Marijuana Policy. Thirty-eight of the applications are for retail stores, 27 are for cultivation facilities and 11 are for manufacturing facilities, said David Heidrich, a spokesman for the office. The facilities would also need local approval from municipalities to be able to open. But they don't yet need brick-and-mortar stores, and that could be motivating marijuana entrepreneurs to test the waters, said David Boyer, an industry consultant who helped lead the state's legalization drive.



In this June 28, 2017, photo, marijuana plants grow at a cultivation facility in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

"You don't even need to have a building or a town, you just need to have a dream," Boyer said. "When the town opts in, you can apply for the local license." Maine voters approved legal sales of marijuana

for adult use in a November 2016 vote. It's one of a growing number of states to go legal, although the process of developing regulations and licensing businesses has been slow. Massachusetts also went legal

in 2016 and has had retail stores for more than a year. One obstacle was that former Gov. Paul LePage, a Republican, was opposed to legalization. He left office in January. LePage's successor, Democratic

Gov. Janet Mills, has been more open to working with the state's nascent marijuana industry.

Recreational marijuana could be available in stores in Maine by spring 2020, Heidrich said.

"It's certainly possible — it really depends on the completeness of the applications and the speed at which municipalities provide authorizations," he said.

State officials have not released the names of applicants for marijuana licenses to the public, but that could change soon. The state also needs applications from prospective marijuana testing facilities to ensure the safety of the products, but has not received any yet, Heidrich said. At least one company is working on an application, he said.

Maine already has a long-standing medical marijuana program, and it is continuing while the state rolls out legal recreational marijuana. □

Holiday shopping off to slow start, US retail sales up 0.2%

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. retail sales rose at a modest pace in November as the holiday shopping season appeared to have a slow start.

The Commerce Department said Friday that retail sales increased a seasonally adjusted 0.2% in November, down from 0.4% in the previous month. Healthy car sales lifted the overall figure. Excluding autos, sales ticked up just 0.1%.

Steady job gains, a low unemployment rate and rising wages have lifted consumer confidence and economists expect this year's holiday shopping season to be a healthy one.

But with Thanksgiving falling later in November there were fewer shopping days after Black Friday. Parts of the Midwest were also hit last month with snow and cold weather, which may



In this Nov. 29, 2019, file photo customers shop at a Kohl's store in Colma, Calif.

Associated Press

have discouraged some spending. Still, there were signs of consumer health. October's retail sales were revised higher, to a gain of 0.4%, up from 0.3%. In the past year, retail sales have

increased 3.3%, a slightly faster pace than the previous month.

Auto sales rose 0.5% in November, possibly buoyed by lower interest rates on many auto loans. Sales at electronics and appli-

ance stores rose 0.7%, the most since July. Gas station sales also picked up 0.7%, though that can reflect higher prices at the pump. The retail sales figures aren't adjusted for price changes.

Sales plunged 1.1% at health and personal care stores, the most in nearly a year, and dropped 0.6% at clothing outlets. General merchandise stores, which include large chains such as Target, eked out a 0.1% gain. □



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Mutts



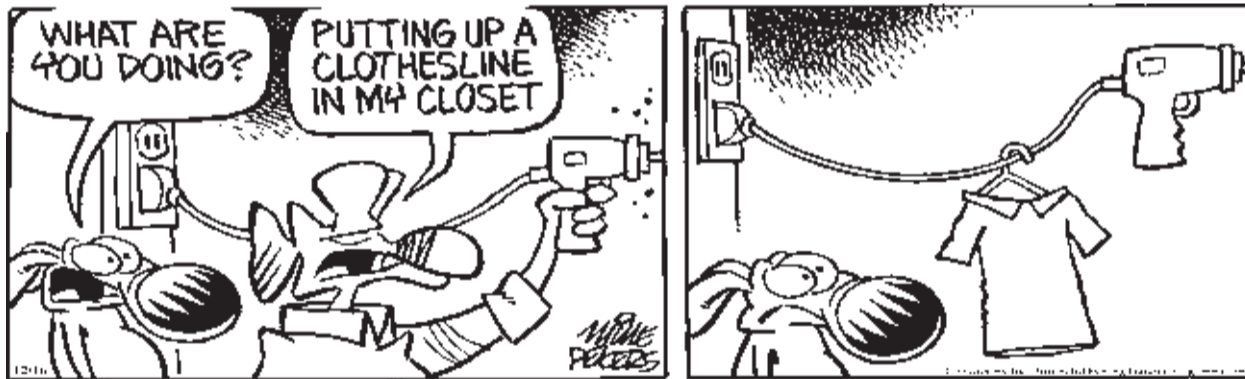
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1	3	8	7	9	5
	7	3		4	6
2	6	8		3	2 4
5	3			8	
	8	6	3	1	2
7	1	2	5	4	8

Difficulty Level ★

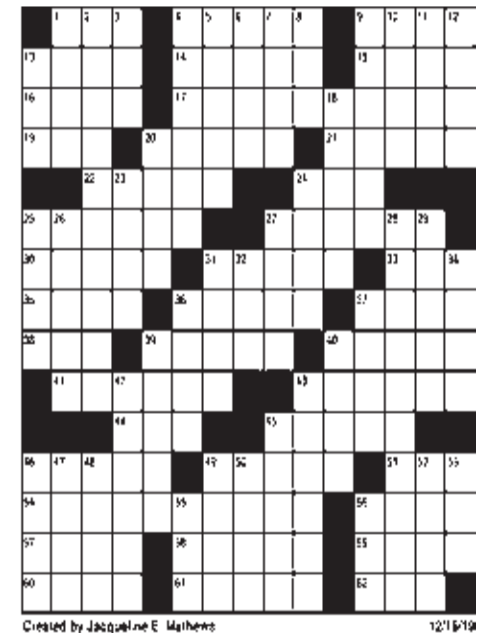
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

8	6	1	3	5	4	2	7	9
4	5	7	8	2	9	3	1	6
2	9	3	6	7	1	5	4	8
3	7	9	5	4	8	1	6	2
5	1	4	2	6	7	8	9	3
6	8	2	1	9	3	4	5	7
9	3	5	7	1	2	6	8	4
7	2	6	4	8	5	9	3	1
1	4	8	9	3	6	7	2	5

- ACROSS**
- 1 Actor Kimer
 - 4 Aerosol
 - 9 20th-century U.S. president
 - 13 Skippy skirt
 - 14 For all one's right to
 - 15 Sylew
 - 16 Sporting equipment
 - 17 Sick
 - 19 Yuramrac
 - 20 Vies per hour
 - 21 Stringed instruments
 - 22 Bakery purchases
 - 24 Piece of china
 - 25 Excuses
 - 27 Duplity
 - 30 Lant
 - 31 Blackboard writer's need
 - 33 Stra or Vire
 - 35 ... the night before Christmas...
 - 36 Beach souvenir
 - 37 Elemen
 - 38 Ready... go!
 - 39 Gowed
 - 40 Warren or Harvey
 - 41 Regan money
 - 43 Generous one
 - 44 Follower of At a
 - 45 Musical drama
 - 45 Cher's accessory
 - 49 ... car; police vehicle
 - 51 Foot digit
 - 54 Tracking dog
 - 55 Paper towel brand
 - 57 Why don't we!
 - 58 Ralph Kramden's wife
 - 59 ... the moon-related
 - 60 Strip's
 - 61 Sucks
 - 62 Actress Ving-Na

- DOWN**
- 1 Sma' bottle
 - 2 Look forward to
 - 3 Fleur-de
 - 4 Steas
 - 5 Window piece
 - 6 Ticket to
 - 7 Bear's song
 - 7 Plan to go
 - 8 Positive reply
 - 9 Group of actors or dancers
 - 10 Vienna's nation; act
 - 11 Escape
 - 12 Allen & Turner
 - 13 Grad degree
 - 18 Play a strat
 - 20 Zooms down; snowy slopes
 - 23 Lincoln's namesakes
 - 24 Ja. pro's room
 - 25 Link letter & Garfunkel
 - 26 Closer to the ground
 - 27 Valley
 - 28 Absolute y necessary
 - 29 Treasure d'scovered
 - 31 Squey Chinese dish
 - 32 Egg layer
 - 34 Sil' x for young or gang
 - 36 I have nothing to do with
 - 37 Celebrity
 - 39 Noise
 - 40 Get rid of
 - 42 Fincky
 - 43 Black sur
 - 45 Pound divisor
 - 46 Que'iled
 - 47 Tearful request
 - 48 Goes cad
 - 49 Fly a one
 - 50 Wily remark
 - 52 Kin
 - 53 Cootie's place
 - 55 Snow-off
 - 56 S'lemn promise



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 12/16/19

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

IFFY	CEAR	ARFS
GLEE	AMASS	LULU
EATS	POLITICIAN	
INT	DOTE	TONGS
UNITE	FAT	
ALCOVE	FULTON	
LUCRE	SHELL	VAT
PRIM	STEEL	DESI
SIN	BLISS	FORTE
DEALER	ALWAYS	
SEW	FRANC	
BESTS	TREK	TIP
ACCUSATION	TRICA	
SHUT	DELTA	OVEN
HOME	OATHS	WEDS

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California considers calling THC in pot a risk to moms-to-be

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press
LOS ANGELES (AP) — More than three years after California voters broadly legalized marijuana, a state panel is considering if its potent, high-inducing chemical — THC — should be declared a risk to pregnant women and require warnings. Studies have indicated that a rising number of mothers-to-be have turned to marijuana products for relief from morning sickness and headaches, though it's effectiveness has not been backed by science. Cannabis industry officials say too little sound research is available on THC to support such a move and warn that it could make marijuana companies a target for lawsuits with unverified claims of injuries from pot use during pregnancy. "That seems like an open-ended checkbook. How do we defend ourselves?" said Los Angeles dispensary owner Jerred Kiloh, who heads the United Cannabis Business Association, an industry group. Lawyers looking for a quick buck will say "give us \$10,000 or we are going to take you into a long court case," he added. The California Cannabis Industry Association echoed that fear, noting that pot's standing as an illegal drug at the federal level has choked off research by government agencies. Those studies are needed to determine if THC poses health risks for pregnant women. "Good policy and consumer protections are based on facts and data," spokesman Josh Drayton said. The meeting Wednesday of the obscure state Developmental and Reproductive Toxicant Identification Committee in Sacramento will focus on whether THC causes "reproductive toxicity." The panel is made up of scientists appointed by the governor. An affirmative finding would make THC one of



In this June 27, 2017, file photo, Jerred Kiloh, owner of the licensed medical marijuana dispensary Higher Path, stocks shelves with with cannabis products in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

hundreds of chemicals judged to cause cancer or birth defects that the state requires to carry warning labels, such as arsenic and lead. The review is being carried out under the umbrella of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act, better known as Proposition 65. It requires warning labels for chemicals judged as dangerous and allows residents, advocacy groups and attorneys to sue on behalf of the state and collect a portion of civil penalties for failure to provide warnings. The 1986 law has been credited with weeding out cancer-causing chemicals from products but also faulted for setting the stage for legal shakedowns. Since 2009, the state has listed marijuana smoke

as being known to cause cancer, similar to tobacco smoke. "The expansion of Proposition 65 as it relates to cannabis is premature and lacks both the facts and the data that would justify this move," Drayton said. The U.S. surgeon general warned in August that smoking marijuana is dangerous for pregnant women and their developing babies. Mainstream medicine advises against pot use in pregnancy because of studies suggesting it might cause premature birth, low birth weight or other health problems, but many of those studies were in animals or had findings that were open to dispute. The National Institute on Drug Abuse is paying for several studies on marijuana use during pregnancy. □

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U.S. finally giving boot to official foot measurement

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Change is afoot for the official measuring stick used to size up big places in America.

The reason? There are actually two different definitions of the 12-inch measurement known as a foot. Some land surveyors use what's known as the U.S. survey foot. Others use the definition that's more accepted by the broader world: the international foot.

The difference between them is so tiny that you can't see it with the naked eye on a 12-inch ruler. But over big distances, it matters. So, to reduce the chance for errors and confusion, the federal government has announced it's finally giving the boot to the survey foot.

The international foot is the smaller one — adding about an eighth of an inch of difference when measuring a mile. That means the United States is 28.3 feet wider when measured using the international foot instead of the survey foot. The change started in 1959, when the federal government mandated



In this April 18, 1958 file photo, Philip N. Brooks, right, a New York State surveyor, takes a look through his transit on the Tuscarora Indian Reservation near Niagara Falls, N.Y., while Tuscarora Chief Elton Black Cloud Greene watches.

Associated Press

that everyone use the international foot but allowed surveyors to keep to the old U.S. survey foot for a while. That temporary reprieve has lasted 60 years, but it will finally end in 2022, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Institute of Standards and Technology announced in October.

Surveyors in 40 U.S. states and territories still use the larger U.S. foot. The rest use the smaller international one.

"We have chaos," says Michael Dennis, a project manager for NOAA's National Geodetic Survey. Geodetics is surveying that takes into account the curve of the Earth. "This is a mess."

The small difference may not seem like much, but it caused trouble in planning for high speed rail in California, Dennis said. It also created a mess for bridge work between Oregon, which uses the international foot, and Washington, which uses the U.S. one, he said.

Dennis also relayed a horror story one surveyor sent

him: A contractor from a state that uses the U.S. foot planned a building in the glide path of a major airport in a state that uses the international foot. The confusion over the two different feet caused delays, extra cost and redesign of the building to be one floor shorter. (Dennis wouldn't identify the airport.)

"It's embarrassing that we even had this going on for 60 years," Dennis says. "This whole thing is ridiculous." Dennis knows some will squawk.

The U.S. foot "sounds very patriotic, very American," he said in a webinar. "Then there's the word 'international foot,' which sounds kind of new world order, U.N.-sanctioned, maybe with a whiff of socialism."

But it makes sense to be using the same measuring stick as the rest of the world to save time and eliminate embarrassing errors, he says.

Those who fear this is a slippery slope leading to the metric system are worrying a century too late, NIST metric coordinator Elizabeth Benham says. Since 1893, the official definition of a foot is based on the meter. □



In this Friday, Oct. 18, 2019 file photo, an alligator rests in Everglades National Park, near Flamingo, Fla.

Associated Press

Louisiana sues California over alligator ban

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Louisiana is suing the state of California over its decision to ban the import and sale of alligator products, saying the ban will hurt an important Louisiana industry and ultimately could hurt the state's wetlands.

In a lawsuit filed Thursday, Louisiana said the economy surrounding alligators has played a key role in bringing back the American alligator population and is an important factor in protecting wetlands and other species besides alligators that depend on the wetlands.

"California has nevertheless attempted to destroy the market for American

alligator products notwithstanding the fact that no such alligators live in California," the lawsuit says.

According to The Times-Picayune/the New Orleans Advocate, California banned alligator skins and meats in the 1970s but repeatedly issued exemptions that allowed sales. The newspaper reports that the most recent exemption expires on Jan. 1 of next year, and this time California's legislature did not pass another exemption. The newspaper reports the alligator ban was backed by a coalition of animal rights and environmental groups.

Louisiana said in its lawsuit that because most of

the state's coastal habitat is privately owned, the state does not have direct control over how it is managed. But the alligator industry provides economic incentives for landowners to take steps to protect marshlands that serve as habitat for the alligators.

The state argues that if California's ban goes into effect, "landowners will be forced to greatly reduce or cease their erosion control efforts because they will be unable to economically sustain those efforts, resulting in irreparable harm to their property as well as harm to Louisiana's sovereign environmental interests in wetland preservation." □

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Hallmark draws criticism after pulling same-sex wedding ads

By JOCELYN NOVECK

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Hallmark Channel was facing some bitter criticism on social media Sunday over its decision to pull ads for a wedding-planning website that featured two brides kissing at the altar, following a complaint from a conservative advocacy group.

The hashtag #BoycottHallmark was trending at one point on Twitter, and celebrities like Ellen DeGeneres and William Shatner assailed the decision. "Put the commercials back!" Shatner wrote. DeGeneres asked: "Isn't it almost 2020?"

The LGBT advocacy group GLAAD called the decision to remove the ads by Zola "discriminatory and especially hypocritical coming from a network that claims to present family programming and also recently stated they are 'open' to LGBTQ holiday movies." The group said it would be asking other Hallmark advertisers where they stand on the issue, and if they now will pull their advertising. Zola has said it won't advertise on the channel. Hallmark, which is in the midst of its heavily watched holiday programming, said Saturday it had removed



This image made from undated video provided by Zola shows a scene of its advertisement.

Associated Press

the ads because the controversy was a distraction.

"The debate surrounding these commercials on all sides was distracting from the purpose of our network, which is to provide entertainment value," said a statement provided to The Associated Press by Molly Biber, senior vice president for public affairs and communications at Hallmark.

In an interview, she added: "The Hallmark brand is never going to be divisive. We don't want to generate controversy, we've tried very hard to stay out of it ... we just felt it was in the best interest of the brand to pull

them and not continue to generate controversy."

The conservative group One Million Moms, part of the American Family Association, had complained about the ads personally to Bill Abbott, CEO of Crown Media Family Networks, Hallmark's parent company.

A post on the group's website said that Abbott "reported the advertisement aired in error."

The group also wrote: "The call to our office gave us the opportunity to confirm the Hallmark Channel will continue to be a safe and family-friendly network."

Zola had submitted six

ads, and four included a lesbian couple. After Hallmark pulled those ads, but not two featuring only opposite-sex couples, Zola pulled its remaining ads, the company said.

"The only difference between the commercials that were flagged and the ones that were approved was that the commercials that did not meet Hallmark's standards included a lesbian couple kissing," said Mike Chi, Zola's chief marketing officer, in a statement sent to the AP. "All kisses, couples and marriages are equal celebrations of love and we will no longer be advertis-

ing on Hallmark."

One marketing analyst said the family-friendly Hallmark network now finds itself in the middle of a PR crisis that it should have seen coming.

"They've got trouble on their hands, and they've got to do something fast," said Paul Argenti, a Dartmouth College professor of corporate communication.

"They should never have accepted the ads if they weren't willing to stand up for them. If you didn't believe in gay couples getting married, why did you take the ads in the first place?"

The question Hallmark will now have to answer, he said, is: "What are your values? Do you stand for all families?"

In one of the pulled ads, two brides stand at the altar and wonder aloud whether their wedding would be going more smoothly if they had used a wedding planning site like Zola. The lighthearted ad ends with the just-married couple sharing a quick kiss.

Actress Sandra Bernhard, who played one of the first openly bisexual characters on network TV in "Roseanne," also criticized Hallmark's decision. □

Jeff Lindsay has entertaining new thriller

By BRUCE DESILVA

Associated Press

"Just Watch Me," Dutton, by Jeff Lindsay

Riley Wolfe gets his kicks executing spectacular robberies that no one else would even contemplate. His victims are always the super-rich, whom he despises as "smug, do-nothing, self-loving leeches."

This anti-hero makes his debut in "Just Watch Me," a supremely entertaining new thriller by Jeff Lindsay that promises to be the first of a series.

The plot combines the intricacies of caper movies such as "The Thomas Crown Affair" and "To Catch a Thief" with the

creepy sensibility of the hit TV show "Dexter." The latter is no surprise since the show was inspired by Lindsay's eight novels featuring Dexter Morgan, a serial killer who preyed only upon other serial killers. Unlike Dexter, Wolfe takes no pleasure in murder, but he displays no qualms about dispassionately dispatching anyone who gets in his way.

The opening of the story finds Wolfe taking no satisfaction from his spectacular heist of a 12-ton sculpture, swiped in broad daylight at its dedication ceremony. For him, the spectacular has become ordinary, and it bores him.

He craves a caper that is "beyond impossible, something ridiculous, unthinkable."

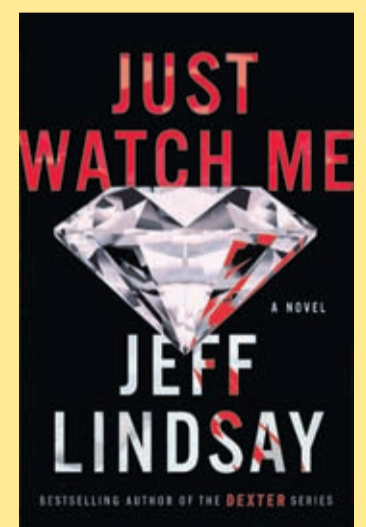
He finds it when the government in Tehran, hoping to thaw its relations with the United States, lends the Iranian crown jewels to a New York City museum. There, the multi-billion-dollar treasure is guarded by the latest in high-tech security systems and by both American-trained mercenaries and a "trigger-happy" contingent of Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

Meanwhile, Wolfe is being tracked by Frank Delgado, a clever FBI agent who has been after him for years, always a step or two be-

hind. Now, the agent has decided that the only way to catch Wolfe is to uncover his weakness — one that must have its roots in Wolfe's upbringing.

So Delgado crisscrosses the eastern half of the United States, digging into Wolfe's long-buried family history. Readers who know how caper stories usually work will have little doubt who is going to win this cat-and-mouse game, but the agent's fine detective work succeeds in unearthing the influences that turned Wolfe into the man he has become.

"Just Watch Me," then, is both an exciting crime story and a revealing explo-



This cover image released by Dutton shows "Just Watch Me," by Jeff Lindsay.

Associated Press

ration of the psychology of a master criminal. The writing is tight and vivid, the characters are convincingly portrayed and the action is nonstop. □

'Jumanji' ends 'Frozen 2' hot streak to claim top spot

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press
LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Jumanji: The Next Level" puts "Frozen 2" on second-place ice, while Clint Eastwood's "Richard Jewell" opened with one of the worst box office debuts for the director. The Sony film starring Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart brought in \$60.1 million in the U.S. and Canada to break a three-day

record for a comedy in December for the production company. The sequel is a followup to 2017's "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," which grossed \$962 million worldwide. A week before it opened in North America, Sony's "Jumanji: The Next Level" debuted in 18 international countries where it made \$52.5 million. "Frozen 2" dropped to second place with \$19.2 million



This image released by Sony shows Kevin Hart, from left, Dwayne Johnson, Jack Black and Karen Gillan in a scene from "Jumanji: The Next Level."

Associated Press

domestically after claiming top box office spot for three straight weeks, earning \$367 million since its Nov. 22 release. The animated film following the adventures of Anna and Elsa crossed the \$1 billion mark globally to become Disney Animation's third billion-dollar project along

with "Frozen" and "Zootopia." It also became Walt Disney Studio's sixth billion-dollar release in 2019. "Richard Jewell" landed at No. 4, bringing in \$5 million. The film took aim at the media and federal investigators for what he sees as a rush to judgment after the 1996 Olympics bomb-

ing in Atlanta. The 89-year-old Eastwood calls Jewell's story "a great American tragedy." The docudrama focuses on Jewell, who was initially hailed as a hero for finding a bomb at the event held at Centennial Olympic Park and clearing bystanders from the area. □

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FRI 6:05 | 7:30 | 8:50 | 10:15
SAT 2:00 | 3:20 | 4:45 | 6:05 | 7:30 | 8:50 | 10:15
SUN 2:00 | 3:20 | 4:45 | 6:05 | 7:30 | 8:50
CXC MON-THU 5:50 | 8:30
FRI 5:50 | 8:30 | 11:10
SAT 3:10 | 5:50 | 8:30 | 11:10
SUN 3:10 | 5:50 | 8:30
PBP VII MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20
SAT-SUN 1:20 | 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20
SPANISH
PBP MON-THU 5:10 | 7:50
FRI 5:10 | 7:50 | 10:30
SAT 2:30 | 5:10 | 7:50 | 10:30
SUN 2:30 | 5:10 | 7:50

BLACK CHRISTMAS
IMOGEN POOTIS | CARY ELWES
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
PH MON-FRI 6:25 | 8:40
SAT-SUN 1:55 | 4:10 | 6:25 | 8:40
PBP MON-FRI 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35
SAT-SUN 1:00 | 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35

DARK WATERS
MARK RUFFALO | ANNE HATHAWAY
PH MON-FRI 6:45
SAT-SUN 1:50 | 6:45

MARDAANI2
RANI MUKERJI | RAJESH SHARMA
PBP MON-SUN 7:05 | 9:25

Knives Out
DANIEL CRAIG | CHRIS EVANS
3 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG-13
PBP MON-FRI 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15
SAT-SUN 1:00 | 3:45 | 6:30 | 9:15

FROZEN II
Disney
2 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES PG
PH MON-FRI 6:00 | 8:35
SAT-SUN 3:30 | 6:00 | 8:35
PBP MON-FRI 3:50 | 4:45 | 6:15 | 8:40
SAT-SUN 1:25 | 2:25 | 3:50 | 4:45 | 6:15 | 8:40

21 BRIDGES
CHADWICK BOSEMAN | J.K. SIMMONS
PH MON-FRI 9:30
SAT-SUN 4:30 | 9:30

QUE LEONES
OZUNA | CLARISSA MOLINA
SPANISH
PH MON-THU 6:10 | 8:30
FRI 6:10 | 8:30 | 10:50
SAT 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30 | 10:50
SUN 3:50 | 6:10 | 8:30
PBP MON-THU 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20
FRI 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SAT 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SUN 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20

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Anna Karina, the icon of French New Wave cinema, dies at 79



In this Aug. 31, 1965, file photo, French movie director Jean-Luc Godard and French actress Anna Karina are shown at the International Film Festival in Venice.

Associated Press

Associated Press
PARIS (AP) — Anna Karina, the French New Wave actress who became an icon of the cinema in the 1960s and was the muse of Jean-Luc Godard, has

died. She was 79. The French culture minister announced her death on Twitter on Sunday. French media said that the Danish-born Karina had cancer and died Saturday.

"Her look was the look of the New Wave. It will remain so forever," Culture Minister Franck Riester tweeted. "Anna Karina radiated. She magnetized the entire world," Riester said, adding that "French cinema has lost one of its legends." Karina made seven films with Godard, her partner at the time, including the 1961 "Une Femme Est Une Femme" (A Woman is a Woman), in which she played a femme fatale. For that, she received the best actress award at the Berlin Film Festival. Other cult Godard movies starring Karina included the 1962 "Vivre Sa Vie" (Live Your Life) and the 1965 "Pierrot Le Fou." □

Crazy Fish Monday at **BUGALOE****Join Bugaloe for Crazy Fish Mondays!**

Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is perfectly located between the Riu Palace Hotel and Hilton Resort on the famous Palm Pier with stunning 360° views of the crystal clear ocean. Open daily from 7.30am till midnight, Mondays are known as Crazy Fish Mondays for the delicious fresh fish dishes the chef at Bugaloe serves up.

Crazy Fish Monday! (after 5pm) Fried Fish Basket \$14, Grouper Platter \$17 or Red Snapper Fillet \$20. Fresher than fresh is the motto of Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill.

In addition to Crazy Fish Mondays, Bugaloe has a weekly line-up of live entertainment and daily happy hours from 5-6pm and 10-11pm. Follow your tapping feet down to the music where smiles and fun await you! Reservations are recommended.

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Taylor Swift calls out Scooter Braun during Billboard speech

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Taylor Swift used the Billboard Women in Music stage to address a series of issues including her ongoing beef with Scooter Braun.

Swift was awarded the first-ever woman of the decade honor during the 14th annual event Thursday night, the eve of her 30th birthday. Her acceptance speech lasted more than 15 minutes as she spoke about witnessing institutionalized sexism throughout her career, unfair business practices and Braun, who bought her master recordings without her knowledge.

The Grammy-winning singer also called out Braun's supporters.

"The definition of the toxic male privilege in our industry is people saying 'But he's always been nice to me,' when I'm raising val-



Taylor Swift arrives at Billboard's Women in Music at the Hollywood Palladium on Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019, in Los Angeles.

id concerns about artists owning their rights to own their music," Swift said. "Of course he's nice to you. If you're in this room, he has

something that he needs." Swift, Alicia Keys and Billie Eilish were among the music artists who were recognized at the event, which

celebrated the achievements of top female performers and executives in the music industry. Rosalia and Megan Thee Stallion,

who were also honored, performed during the live stream show.

The beef began after Swift discovered that Braun's Ithaca Holdings owned her master recordings.

It was announced in June that he acquired Big Machine Label Group, the label led by Scott Borchetta and home to Swift's first six albums. Braun, who manages Grammy winners including Ariana Grande, Justin Bieber and Tori Kelly, wrote a lengthy post on social media that he's made calls to have an open discussion with Swift and squash their differences, but said he's been rejected. However, the singer said she hasn't heard a word from him.

"None of these investors have ever bothered to contact me or my team directly to perform their due diligence on their investment," she said. □

Associated Press

75 years on, Battle of the Bulge memories bond people

By **RAF CASERT**

Associated Press

THIMISTER-CLERMONT, Belgium (AP) — As a schoolboy three quarters of a century ago, Marcel Schmetz would regularly see open trucks rumble past to a makeshift American cemetery — filled with bodies, some headless, some limbless, blood seeping from the vehicles onto the roads that the U.S. soldiers had given their lives to liberate. Sometimes, Schmetz said, there were over 200 bodies a day, casualties of one of the bloodiest and most important battles in World War II: The Battle of the Bulge which started 75 years ago on Monday and effectively sealed the defeat of Nazi Germany.

"It gave me nightmares," Schmetz said. It also gave the 11-year-old the resolve that, one day, he would give something back. "I had to do something," he said.

M&M

Fast forward to 2019, when memories are fading and relations between Europe and the United States deteriorating.

There's a rambling house and converted warehouse in the bucolic, verdant hills that were once among the worst killing grounds of World War II. Zoom in to the living-room table, where Marcel, 86, sits with his wife, Mathilde, and one of the many WWII veterans that have shared coffee and cake — and often a nip of something stronger — with them, telling stories that span generations.



In this photo taken on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019, a World War II model plane with navigation maps and a photograph are displayed at the Remember Museum 39-45 in Thimister-Clermont, Belgium. Associated Press

"Well, I don't share them very often," said Arthur Jacobson, who was just 20 when he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. "Once in a while, somebody is interested and I tell them a little bit." In Marcel and Mathilde's home, which also serves as the Remember Museum 39-45, "a little bit" doesn't count. Soon the former Bazooka operator was sharing stories of friends lost, ties gained, all between a chuckle and a moist eye.

For M&M, as the couple is known to fans from across the United States, remembering has become a mission in life, since memory brings understanding and friendship. They are not alone. From the shores of Normandy, where the allies first landed on D-Day,

to the forests deep in the Belgian Ardennes, there remains a deep appreciation for what the soldiers did. Yet, those people live on the scar tissue of war, where battlefields, memorials and cemeteries lie just a few miles away. That memory fades quickly the more one moves from the old front lines to European cities, where peace and prosperity has reigned for the best part of a century. The voices of the last witnesses of the war's fighting, mostly in their 90s now, are also becoming frailer by the day.

And with the growing questioning of trans-Atlantic ties and trust, the challenge to keep those bonds across the ocean intact has increased.

It makes Marcel and Mathilde's mission to connect all the more vital.

"Whoever is your president, whoever runs the show, the boys who were on the front lines, who still go out and fight for our freedoms, they need to know we appreciate them," Mathilde said.

IT GIVES ME GOOSEBUMPS

Lt. Col. Jim Moretti of the 171st Air Refueling Wing knows it well, and whenever he is in Germany on a mission he always makes the pilgrimage to Marcel and Mathilde just across the border. The first time he thought to spend perhaps

half an hour in their small museum. Then he found out that the hardware sinks into insignificance compared to the software of the place — the stories which are linked to every item on show. "We ended up being there for 3, 4, 5 hours," he said. Mathilde connects a face in a photograph to a veteran she met years ago and still remembers the story that makes it all relevant to the families of the fallen. "It gives me goosebumps. It's sobering, humbling," Moretti said. It became even better when he was able to be part of such a story himself.

THE SMALLEST OF THINGS

Soft-spoken local policeman Serge Fafchamps had something troubling him for a while. Through his family, he obtained a fist-sized

Bible that had been left behind by Pvt. Millard Weekley in a local hotel during the war, likely in the rush to reach the front line.

Like so many locals, Fafchamps is strongly aware of the sacrifices U.S. soldiers made during World War II and wanted to make a gesture, however small, to show that in the 21st century it was not forgotten.

"It was, I think, the smallest of things, it was a friendly act that I hoped would deliver some happiness to the family," he said.

Even though he got close to finding the family, there was still a missing link, and he long thought he had reached a dead end. Then, by chance, he learned of Marcel and Mathilde. Soon, they were on the case.

"I began to make these searches with the help of American friends," Mathilde said. "Then, finally, someone found the daughter," Paula Ferrell.

But they still needed someone to deliver the Bible, in person. So in walked Lt. Col Moretti, who saw, as luck would have it, that Ferrell lived close to his airbase in Coraopolis, Pa.

"Of all the places in the U.S., this could not be true," Moretti said. "It was an amazing idea. I am so thankful for that," Ferrell said of Fafchamps' kindness. Now the Bible sits on a night table next to her bed, the handwriting on the opening page a palpable memory of a father who was always taciturn when it came to war stories and memories. □



In this photo taken on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019, names of veterans who have visited are written on the side of the U.S. Army truck, The Red Ball Express, at the Remember Museum 39-45 in Thimister-Clermont, Belgium.

Associated Press



In this photo taken on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019, A U.S. Army World War II Sherman tank sits on the hillside outside the Remember Museum 39-45 in Thimister-Clermont, Belgium.

Associated Press